



THE AMERICAN

# Legion

\$2.50 DECEMBER 2018

[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

*The magazine for a strong America*

## MVP

VETERANS AND ATHLETES  
FIGHTING TOGETHER

---

*God's place in  
the Preamble*

---


WHAT CONGRESS DID RIGHT

---

HIDDEN SKI DESTINATIONS

---

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY SINCE 1919







# I SERVED FOR *his future*

With USAA, you've earned access to a membership that can be passed down from generation to generation. So no matter what reasons you served for, the best reasons are yet to come.

**JOIN USAA AND BEGIN YOUR LEGACY.**

CALL 877-699-2654 OR VISIT [USAA.COM/LEGION](https://usaa.com/legion)



USAA is proud to be the  
**Preferred Provider**  
of Insurance and Financial Services  
to The American Legion

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. The American Legion receives financial support for this sponsorship. Use of the term "member" or "membership" refers to membership in USAA Membership Services and does not convey any legal or ownership rights in USAA. Restrictions apply and are subject to change. To join USAA, separated military personnel must have received a discharge type of "Honorable." Eligible former dependents of USAA members may join USAA. © 2018 USAA. 250717-0518-TAL



# THE 1908 "NO MOTTO" \$20 GOLD COINS FROM TEDDY ROOSEVELT'S ROUGH RIDER HOARD



2018 GOLD &  
SILVER BELOW  
DEALER COST!

**\$5 GOLD**  
AMERICAN EAGLES

AS LOW AS

**\$115.00**

MINIMUM ORDER 5 COINS



**\$1 SILVER**  
AMERICAN EAGLES

AS LOW AS

**\$15.00**

MINIMUM ORDER 5 COINS



## ~ TEDDY ROOSEVELT'S ROUGH RIDERS ~ THE 1ST UNITED STATES VOLUNTEER CAVALRY

The Rough Rider Hoard is 1,000 \$20 Gold Saint Gaudens pieces found in a European vault that is thought to have been transferred by Teddy Roosevelt himself.

**WHILE SUPPLIES LAST - NO LIMIT!**  
**ORDER YOURS TODAY BEFORE THEY'RE GONE!**

\*As low as price is available with purchase of \$20 Gold Rough Rider Hoard piece. Price otherwise, add \$15 for Gold and add \$4 for Silver. Price subject to change due to volatility. Add \$12-\$24 for shipping and insurance. Gold and silver coin limits are at our discretion.



UNITED STATES  
PRECIOUS METALS

www.uspreciousmetals.com

**FREE SHIPPING**  
ALL ORDERS OVER \$1000



VAULT CODE AL1812

**1-866-849-6564**





# Legion

## contents

December 2018 • Vol. 185, No. 6

### 22 From the Outside In

Merging Vets & Players program offers opportunities for veterans to bond through weekly workouts and honest talks. *By Steven B. Brooks*


### 28 'For God and Country...'

Past national chaplain reflects on the founding spirit of The American Legion. *By Tierian "Randy" Cash*

### BELOVED KANSAS SON

The Kansas American Legion and Kansas American Legion Auxiliary led an annual tribute to President Dwight Eisenhower at the Eisenhower Presidential Museum and Library in Abilene, Kan., on Oct. 13. The Eisenhower Pilgrimage, which began in 1982, is held on the Saturday closest to Eisenhower's birthday, Oct. 14. Photo by Schelly Stone

Watch a video online:

 [legion.org/legiontv](http://legion.org/legiontv)

### 5 Vet Voice

### 8 Commander's Message

### 10 I Am The American Legion

### 12 Big Issues

### 14 Living Well

### 18 Travel

### 20 Veterans Update

### 38 Rapid Fire

### 54 Comrades

### 56 Parting Shots

### ON THE COVER

Leo Garcia, an Air Force veteran and member of American Legion Post 8 in Las Vegas, participates in a Merging Vets & Players workout at Xtreme Couture MMA. Photo by Ronda Churchill



*The American Legion Magazine*, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 13,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.



# NOTICE TO VETERANS WITH MESOTHELIOMA

YOU ARE  
NOT ALONE  
IN THIS FIGHT.

TURN TO A  
FELLOW VETERAN.



As former Marines and sailors, we served together yesterday. As seasoned attorneys, my firm and I will fight for you today. Attorneys at Coady Law Firm have successfully represented veterans in mesothelioma claims nationwide for more than two decades. We've helped veterans understand their rights—and secured millions for their families in just compensation.

Trust in the experience and commitment of a shipmate who served with you. Contact the Coady Law Firm. Receive a **FREE**, no-obligation consultation.



**Bud Coady**

*Harvard, 1979  
USMC, 1979-89, 1991  
Gulf War Veteran  
Attorney at Law*

**\$30 Billion**

**FROM U.S. COMPENSATION  
TRUST FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR  
VETERANS WHO QUALIFY**

**Call 1-888-802-MESO (6376)  
TO DETERMINE YOUR ELIGIBILITY.**

75 Arlington Street, Suite 500 • Boston, MA 02116 • Web: [www.coadylaw.com](http://www.coadylaw.com)



LAW FIRM



# 8 CIGARS only \$10\*



## FIRST-CLASS PREMIUM CIGAR SAMPLER

When it comes to cigars, no one even comes close to Cigars International and we're ready to prove it to ya with an outrageous intro offer: 8 premium handmade cigars for just \$10.\* Go ahead, price shop this one and prepare to be stunned. When you're ready, we're here waiting with the world's largest selection of premium handmade cigars at the planet's lowest prices, delivered fast and fresh. That's our guarantee.

Includes 1 each of: Hoyo de Monterrey • Macanudo • Villazon CAO • Arganese • HC Series • Bahia • Sancho Panza

For more info visit:  
[www.CigarsIntl.com/SA7453](http://www.CigarsIntl.com/SA7453)

Enter complete web address or  
search keyword: SA7453

1-888-244-2790

Mention code SA7453 | Item #: CA49-SP

\*Plus \$2.99 s/h. Purchase may be subject to state or local sales tax where applicable. First-time purchasers only. One per customer. No sales to anyone under the age of 21. For more information see [www.CigarsIntl.com/ageverify](http://www.CigarsIntl.com/ageverify). Offer expires 1-15-19.



# THE AMERICAN Legion MAGAZINE

**NATIONAL COMMANDER** Brett P. Reistad  
**PUBLISHER** The American Legion  
**EDITOR** Jeff Stoffer  
**DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS** Henry Howard  
**MANAGING EDITOR** Matt Grills  
**ASSOCIATE EDITOR** Laura Edwards  
**ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR** Julie Campbell  
**SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR** Steven B. Brooks  
**DISPATCH EDITOR** Cameron Richardson  
**ASSISTANT WEB EDITOR** Andy Proffett  
**VISUAL TEAM MANAGER** Holly K. Soria  
**MEDIA DESIGN SPECIALIST** Celesta Török-Lee  
**SR. VISUAL MEDIA SPECIALIST** Lucas Carter  
**VISUAL MEDIA SPECIALISTS** Schelly Stone  
Josh Marshall  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER** Tony Heath  
**CONTRIBUTING EDITOR** Alan W. Dowd

## MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

**CHAIRMAN** Walter W. Ivie, Austin, Texas  
**VICE CHAIRMAN** James C. Morris, Cardington, Ohio  
**CONSULTANTS** Rodger A. Bennett, Thawville, Ill.  
Robert A. Corrigan, Bronx, N.Y.  
Albert W. Coughlin, Park Ridge, Ill.  
Jenilyn Strande, Cottonwood, Ariz.  
**MEMBERS** Richard A. Baxter, Palisade, Neb.  
Jeffrey K. Crouser, Dover, Del.  
Thomas A. Fernlund, St. Cloud, Minn.  
C. Jacob Greeling, Bella Vista, Ark.  
Paul L. Greer, Leesville, La.  
Berley Hanna Jr., Somerset, N.J.  
James A. Johnson, Gordo, Ala.  
Paul M. Kennedy, Pittsburgh  
Doug Malin, West Haverstraw, N.Y.  
Susan B. Mason, Sorrento, Fla.  
Richard F. Morgan, Sugar Grove, Pa.  
Dean M. Noechel, Colorado Springs, Colo.  
Silas M. Noel, Frankfort, Ky.  
Norman J. Nuismer, Nashville, Tenn.  
Willis J. Pritchard, Oakes, N.D.  
Raymond J. Samko, Worcester, Mass.  
Richard Schloendorn, Scranton, Pa.  
David L. Sharber, Mount Vernon, Ind.  
Everett G. Shepard, III, Woodstock, Conn.  
George J. Sinkewitz, Huntington, W.Va.  
David F. Wallace, Alexandria, Va.  
Frank C. Ward, Greer, S.C.  
Mark A. Weinmann, Canton, S.D.  
Danny K. Wiley, Leavenworth, Kan.  
Robert F. Woodruff, Marietta, Ga.  
**NEC LIAISON COMMITTEE** Charles K. Robbins, Toms River, N.J.  
Judith S. Beischel, Fountain Hills, Ariz.  
Joseph M. Flynn, Oak Grove, Ky.  
Angel O. Narvaez-Negron, Carolina, Puerto Rico

## ADVERTISING

**ADVERTISING MANAGER** Diane Andretti  
**ASSISTANT ADVERTISING MANAGER** Chris Elliot

**CONTACT** The American Legion Magazine  
P.O. Box 7068  
Indianapolis, IN 46207  
James G. Elliott Company, Inc.  
(917) 421-9055  
**NEW YORK** (312) 348-1202  
**DETROIT** (312) 348-1202  
**CHICAGO** (213) 596-7215  
**LOS ANGELES**

Copyright 2018 by The American Legion

The American Legion (ISSN 0886-1234) is published monthly by The American Legion, 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216. Periodicals postage paid at Indianapolis, IN 46204 and additional mailing offices.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The American Legion, Data Services, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Canada Post International Publications Mail (Canadian Distribution) Sales Agreement No. PM40063731. Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: Station A, P.O. Box, Windsor ON N9A 6J5. Re-entered second-class mail matter at Manila Central Post Office dated Dec. 22, 1991.



Printed in USA  
Member Audit Bureau of Circulations

# ROLEX TORNEK-RAYVILLE OMEGA WATCHES WANTED

YOUR OLD WATCH MAY BE WORTH  
\$10,000 OR MORE\$\$

Military Issue

Mechanical

Dive Watches

Vietnam Era



Contact: Mike Tovar, Navy Vet  
310-683-8675

[www.webstorm.com](http://www.webstorm.com)

email: [watcheswanted@webstorm.com](mailto:watcheswanted@webstorm.com)

1601 N Sepulveda Blvd, Unit 765, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266



## The Magazine for a Strong America

### HOW TO CONTACT US

#### ADDRESS CHANGES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** (800) 433-3318  
cs@legion.org  
The American Legion  
Data Services  
P.O. Box 1954  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

For change of address by mail, attach old address label, provide new address and membership number

**MAGAZINE** (317) 630-1272  
magazine@legion.org

**ARTICLE PROPOSALS** www.legiontown.org/share

#### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

(317) 630-1200  
700 N. Pennsylvania St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

**AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE** P.O. Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

**EMAIL** magazine@legion.org

**TELEPHONE** (317) 630-1298

**WEBSITE** www.legion.org

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** Free with membership

Non-members: \$15

Foreign: \$21

Post-sponsored and widows: \$6

Single copies: \$3.50

#### MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN LEGION

Veterans who served at least one day of active military duty during wartime, or are serving now, are potentially eligible for membership in The American Legion. Members must have been honorably discharged or still serving honorably.

**ELIGIBILITY** Aug 2, 1990 – current  
**DATES OF MILITARY SERVICE** Dec. 20, 1989 – Jan. 31, 1990  
Aug. 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984  
Feb. 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975  
June 25, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955  
Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946  
April 6, 1917 – Nov 11, 1918  
(Merchant Marines who served from Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946, are also eligible.)  
**TO JOIN** Membership Division  
membership@legion.org  
(317) 630-1321  
www.legion.org

#### PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

**VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION** (202) 263-5759  
va&r@legion.org  
**VETERANS EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT** (202) 263-5771  
ve&e@legion.org  
**FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK** (800) 504-4098  
familysupport@legion.org  
**NATIONAL SECURITY** (202) 861-2700  
ns@legion.org  
**LEGISLATIVE** (202) 263-5752  
legislative@legion.org  
**CITIZENS FLAG ALLIANCE** (317) 630-1384  
cfa@cfa-inc.org  
www.legion.org/flag  
**LEGION RIDERS** (317) 630-1265  
www.legion.org/riders  
legionriders@legion.org  
**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL** (317) 630-1249  
baseball@legion.org  
www.legion.org/baseball  
**BOYS NATION** (317) 630-1207  
boysstate-nation@legion.org  
**JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS** (317) 630-1249  
juniorshooting@legion.org  
**NATIONAL ORATORICAL CONTEST** (317) 630-1249  
oratorical@legion.org  
**USAA** (877) 699-2654  
www.usaa.com/legion

#### SCHOLARSHIPS & CHARITABLE TRUSTS

**AMERICAN LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP** (317) 630-1212  
scholarships@legion.org  
**AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND** (317) 630-1202  
**CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION** (317) 630-1202  
www.cwf-inc.org  
**NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND** (317) 630-1376  
ia@legion.org

#### AMERICAN LEGION MERCHANDISE

**ORDER PLACEMENT AND CATALOG REQUESTS** (888) 453-4466  
emblem.legion.org  
emblem@legion.org

#### AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY** (317) 569-4500  
www.legion.org/auxiliary  
**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION** (317) 630-1205  
www.legion.org/sons



Photo by Chet Strange

### 'Never Again'

I am writing in regard to Ken Olsen's article (October). For decades, VA had an Office of Construction Management (OCM) that was staffed with project managers, architects, engineers, estimators, planners and resident engineers. The OCM directed public architectural/engineering companies in the development of major construction projects, from the preliminary phase to the completion of construction. Each project was assigned OCM staff to work with the firms. OCM also conducted final inspections, post-occupancy evaluations (to learn from mistakes), and developed its own construction criteria. Almost all these projects were on time and on budget, due to the competence and dedication of the professionals in OCM. Sadly, in the 1990s, Congress allocated less and less to VA major-construction funding and phased out the OCM.

I want veterans and Rep. Mike Coffman to know that VA is quite capable of oversight for its major-construction program, if only Congress would allocate the funds to fully staff the OCM.

— Chester Hebble, Crofton, Md.

I am sad to read of the bad experiences many have had with VA. I can only say that my experiences with the Jackson, Miss., VA have been positive.

I was diagnosed with prostate cancer seven years ago. I had enrolled in the VA system years prior to that, and knew that my service as an infantryman in Vietnam meant that my cancer would be deemed related to Agent Orange exposure. In the process, a VA representative asked, "Do you have ringing in your ears or any hearing loss?"

I said yes, both. He told me to wait until the prostate cancer issue was settled and then apply

to VA for hearing aids. He said that, in his experience, hearing loss or tinnitus or both suffered by Vietnam infantry veterans was almost always ruled service connected. And it was.

This is not to say that VA providers don't make mistakes or even act uncaring at times, but non-VA providers do, too. If there were only the VA system and the even bigger non-VA system (rather than thousands of non-VA providers), the bad press generated by the problems with the non-VA system would surpass those of VA's. And I do not favor privatizing it.

— Glynn Kegley, Florence, Miss.



### Supreme Court's *Janus* ruling

I agree with the Court's *Janus* ruling, and with Rep. Virginia Foxx's support of it (Big Issues, October). The ruling struck a blow for individual freedom. What I find troubling is the inability of politicians like Rep. Bobby Scott to comprehend what freedom is, and what it means to people living in a free country.

— Doug Lansing, Maiden Rock, Wis.

Yes, non-union municipal employees did pay an "agency fee." That fee was to cover not only collective bargaining, but protection under the contract for disputes over insurance and pension issues, working conditions and wages. The union represents every employee covered by its contract. Proper processing of insurance claims, working conditions relating to employee safety, wages, work hours and overtime as defined by the contract are other things the union deals with on behalf of all employees.

If you want to vote on issues, be a union member. The same people who are screaming about outsiders voting in our elections complain about outsiders not being able to vote on union issues. Any service-fee payer is entitled to a refund on the portion of his or her fee used for non-employment-related expenditures.

Much of what we have today came through collective bargaining. Everyone should participate in the costs if they want the protection the contract provides.

— Phil Pakiela, Gowen, Mich.

Besides the military, labor unions are probably the second most important organization to Americans. Unfortunately, students and the general public are not informed and continually reminded that things like vacations, holidays, health care, wages and benefits are all because of labor unions.

Rep. Virginia Foxx says it is a well-known fact that "fees collected by unions were used for political speech purposes." That is inaccurate. If you are a full dues-paying member, a small portion might be spent on political donations. If and when they are, it is approved by the membership and in almost all cases goes to candidates who support issues that benefit the union members.

I wonder if Foxx knows that labor unions are obligated to represent non-members in grievances too. Is it fair for the labor organization and dues-paying members to cover these costs? She should also know that represented employees earn significantly more than unrepresented employees. Republicans are usually opposed to individuals receiving what they refer to as entitlements. But representation, wages and fringe benefits without payment to support the organization that provides them are bigger entitlements than any other.

This case is just another attempt to lower the economic status of the middle class and make the rich richer. I wonder when American workers will have had enough.

— James Kasmer, Palos Heights, Ill.

### Progress of Blue Water bill

On Tom Philpott's article (Veterans Update, October), I served aboard USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* in the Gulf of Tonkin in 1966 and 1967, and remember many times walking through the mess deck and stopping at one of two water coolers. The taste of the water was nasty, like it was contaminated. Agent Orange? I guess we'll never know.

— John M. Fray, Rye, N.Y.

I served with Target Squadron VC-3 out of Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego. In 1969, I was assigned to Da Nang Air Base in Vietnam. A year later, I returned to North Island.

In 2012, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer and mantle cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Both are attributable to Agent Orange exposure. I have gone through chemotherapy, a stem cell transplant, radiation treatments and surgery. In 2015, I had surgery and was treated with radiation due to a recurrence of the lymphoma. Initially I was awarded 100 percent disability, but by not having the "correct" levels of anemia, my status was changed and put at 30 percent.

My wife and I have two daughters. Both, along with my grandson, were diagnosed with Crohn's disease. There is no history of this disease in either of our families.

In my opinion, the government and VA do everything they can to ignore those of us who were exposed to Agent Orange. I feel lucky to still receive 30 percent, as many receive nothing.

— Jeffrey J. Eller, Dillsboro, Ind.

### THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters published are subject to editing.

Due to the volume of mail received, not every letter can be acknowledged.

The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206  
magazine@legion.org



# Consumer Cellular®



SAVE \$20 ON  
ANY NEW LINE!  
NOVEMBER 15 THROUGH  
DECEMBER 31, 2018



## TALK, TEXT & DATA AS LOW AS \$20/MONTH



### WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

Connect on the nation's largest networks, with coverage to 99% of the U.S.



### RANKED #1 BY J.D. POWER

"Highest in Customer Service among Non-Contract Value Wireless Providers, Five Times in a Row."



### 100% RISK-FREE GUARANTEE

If you're not completely satisfied within 30 days, cancel and pay nothing.

**OUR NEW PLANS INCLUDE MORE DATA!** See all of our plans at [ConsumerCellular.com](http://ConsumerCellular.com)

**\$20**

A MONTH

1 LINE  
INCLUDED

250 MINUTES  
TALK

UNLIMITED  
TEXT

250MB  
DATA

**\$30**

A MONTH

1 LINE  
INCLUDED

UNLIMITED  
TALK

UNLIMITED  
TEXT

2GB  
DATA

**\$55**

A MONTH

2 LINES  
INCLUDED

UNLIMITED  
TALK

UNLIMITED  
TEXT

5GB  
DATA



**AARP MEMBERS RECEIVE A 5% DISCOUNT ON SERVICE AND USAGE EVERY MONTH.**

**CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR**  
(888) 511-3949

**VISIT US ONLINE**  
[ConsumerCellular.com/3949](http://ConsumerCellular.com/3949)

**AVAILABLE AT**  **TARGET**

© 2018 Consumer Cellular, Inc. New service activation on approved credit. Cellular service is not available in all areas and is subject to system limitations. Terms and Conditions subject to change. A \$20 credit will be applied for new lines activated by December 31, 2018 that remain in service at the end of the billing period. The totals shown here are costs for monthly Consumer Cellular service only. They do not include any state or local taxes. If you're not completely satisfied within 30 days (data use is limited to 500MB) of activation of your service, cancel and pay nothing. Consumer Cellular received the highest number among four non-contract value providers in the J.D. Power 2016 V2 - 2018 V2 U.S. Wireless Customer Care Performance Study of customers' satisfaction with their wireless customer care experience. Your experiences may vary. Visit [jdpower.com/awards](http://jdpower.com/awards)

AARP member benefits are provided by third parties, not by AARP or its affiliates. Providers pay a royalty fee to AARP for the use of its intellectual property. These fees are used for the general purposes of AARP. Some provider offers are subject to change and may have restrictions. Please contact the provider directly for details.



# 115th Congress set a high standard

In an era when political attacks often overshadow public policy, I offer praise for a body that rarely receives it: the U.S. Congress.

The 115th Congress has been one of the most veteran-friendly sessions we have seen in two decades. This is not a statement about which party is responsible, but rather the ability of Republicans and Democrats to work together and improve the quality of life for the men and women who have defended our nation through military service.

In 2017, Congress passed the Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, which allows the VA secretary to move more quickly to fire employees who fail to serve veterans in a professional or competent manner. It also protects VA employees who alerted the public or their workplace superiors to improprieties.

Next came the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act, which President Trump signed on stage of the 99th American Legion National Convention in Reno, Nev., in August 2017. The Legion spent years working to modernize the antiquated appeals process. Had the legislation not passed, veterans filing an appeal could have expected to wait an average of 10 years to hear a decision. The legislation passed the House 418-0 and by unanimous consent in the Senate.

These results do not happen by accident. In these cases, they are due to the bipartisan efforts of Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., Ranking Member Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., Ranking Member Rep. Tim Walz, D-Minn., and other allies in Congress. They also happen because of the enormous clout of The American Legion. Combine the advocacy efforts of our Legislative Commission and Legislative Council with the activism of a 3 million-member strong American Legion Family, and you can make a difference.

We continue to do just that. In 2017, Congress passed the Choice Extension Act, ensuring that veterans can seek care close to home or find alternative providers when VA isn't able to provide timely or needed care. Moreover, The American Legion welcomed passage of the Harry W. Colmery "Forever" GI Bill, named for our past national commander, who drafted the original Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944. The new law eliminates many of the previous deadlines set for veterans to use the educational benefits they had earned. Finally, consider what the recently passed VA MISSION Act will do for thousands of veterans and their families, streamlining eight community care programs into one and expanding caregiver benefits to pre-9/11 veterans.

Much work remains. Our flag still needs constitutional protection, government agencies continue to skirt veterans preference hiring laws, and female veterans do not yet have the full range of the gender-specific health care they've earned. We will continue to encourage lawmakers to serve veterans in a manner worthy of their sacrifice. But the 115th Congress and the White House deserve credit for great progress toward advancing the cause of veterans, their families and the U.S. military. This is the new standard for future congresses.




National Commander  
Brett P. Reistad

## MEMORANDA

### HOLIDAY DONOR BLOOD DRIVE

The American Legion's Holiday Donor Blood Drive runs from Nov. 22 to Dec. 31. According to the Red Cross, about 36,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the United States, with someone needing blood every two seconds. One donation may save up to three lives. In 2017-2018, 48,100 American Legion donors gave 73,952 pints of blood.

 [legion.org/security/blood](http://legion.org/security/blood)

### SEASON OF GIVING

Share how your American Legion post is engaged in helping the less fortunate this holiday season. Submit stories and pictures in the "Why I Love My Post" category at the Legiontown website.

 [legiontown.org](http://legiontown.org)

### WAS YOUR POST NAMED FOR A WORLD WAR I VETERAN?

The U.S. World War One Centennial Commission is interested in hearing about American Legion posts named for World War I veterans. Contact David Hamon, the commission's VSO/military director, with information, stories and photos at [david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org](mailto:david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org) or (540) 379-8584.





# Give a little TENDERNESS<sup>®</sup>

and **SAVE 75%\*** on Omaha Steaks<sup>®</sup>

## The Family Gourmet Feast

- 2 (5 oz.) Filet Mignons
- 2 (5 oz.) Top Sirloins
- 2 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops
- 4 Boneless Chicken Breasts (1 lb. pkg.)
- 4 (3 oz.) Kielbasa Sausages
- 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
- 4 (3 oz.) Potatoes au Gratin
- 4 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets
- Omaha Steaks Seasoning Packet (.33 oz.)

55586ATF | ~~\$199.91~~\* separately

Combo Price **\$49<sup>99</sup>**

ORDER NOW & **SAVE 75%\***



Plus get  
4 more Burgers  
**FREE**



**-30-  
GOURMET  
ITEMS!**

\*Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Limit 2 Family Gourmet Feast packages. Your 4 free burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes (55586). Standard S&H will be added per address. Flat rate shipping and reward cards and codes cannot be used with this offer. Not valid with other offers. Expires 1/31/19. All purchases acknowledge acceptance of Omaha Steaks, Inc. Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Visit [omahasteaks.com/terms-of-useOSI](http://omahasteaks.com/terms-of-useOSI) and [omahasteaks.com/info/privacy-policy](http://omahasteaks.com/info/privacy-policy) or call 1-800-228-9872 for a copy. ©2018 OCG | Omaha Steaks, Inc. SRC0612



## DERRIC GRIMES

When he left the Army three years ago, Derric Grimes knew he wanted to continue to serve his nation and community in some way. He's found plenty of opportunities at American Legion Post 116 in Fuquay-Varina, N.C.

"What drew me into the Legion was its focus on family," says Grimes, who is pulling double duty as commander of Post 116 and District 11. "You see that in our programs."

Ten years ago, the post had 250 members. Now, driven by its commitment to community, Post 116 is North Carolina's largest post, with 918 members in a town of 25,000.

The post's Cruisers Club hosts semi-annual classic car shows that help recruit new members and generate goodwill in the community. The Post 116 family also sponsors a Boy Scout troop, cleans up highway trash, donates to school arts programs, participates in suicide prevention walks and much more.

"Having my family be a part of The American Legion has been a growth opportunity," says Grimes, whose daughters, Savannah, 6, and Charlotte, 3, are in the Junior Auxiliary. "They see that this is an organization they can be a part of and give back."

At the post's monthly fish fries, Savannah passes out tartar sauce and ketchup. "She knows that it's something she can do and it helps," her dad says. "I didn't ask her if she wanted to do it. Setting the example for them taught her to volunteer."

— Henry Howard

**BRANCH OF SERVICE** Army (2007-2015)

**RANK** Captain

**MILITARY JOB** Engineer

**AMERICAN LEGION POST** Post 116, Fuquay-Varina, N.C.

**YEARS IN THE LEGION** 3

### LEGION ACTIVITIES

- District commander (2018-present)
- Post commander (2017-present)
- National 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee (2017-present)
- National Foreign Relations Committee (2017-present)
- Department Internal Affairs Commission (2018-present)
- Department Resolution & Resolutions Assignments Committee (2018-present)

**Watch an interview of Derric Grimes and read an extended story online:**

 [www.legion.org/magazine](http://www.legion.org/magazine)

**See an archive of past interviews:**

 [www.legion.org/iamlegion](http://www.legion.org/iamlegion)

*"Every member of the American Legion Family is a recruiter for every part of the family."*



Photo by Schelly Stone



# This Necklace is NOT for Sale...

*It's yours for FREE\**

*No kidding. Only Stauer can give you  
200 carats of genuine amethyst for NOTHING.*

You may think you understood the concept of "priceless" jewelry. For years, "priceless" meant "astronomically expensive." Owning "priceless" treasures was a rare privilege reserved for celebrities, billionaires, and royalty. The best most of us could do was dream. Until now...

Stauer smashes the luxury status quo with the release of our **FREE\* 200-Carat Lusso Amethyst Necklace**. That's right, we said **FREE...** as in "priceless." No charge.\* **ZERO dollars.\*** Call now and we'll send you this impressive helping of genuine amethyst (independently appraised at \$295) for **FREE**. We cut the price 100% and you pay only \$24.95, our regular charge for shipping, processing and insurance...we'll even **pay you back with a \$25 Discount Certificate—that's Better Than Free shipping!** There are no tricks or gimmicks. You aren't obligated to spend another dime or dollar with us... although we make it **VERY** hard to resist.

**Why give away jewelry?** We want your attention. Once you get a closer look at our rare gemstone treasures and vintage-inspired watches, and once you discover the guilt-free fun of getting luxury for less, we're betting that you'll fall in love with Stauer. If not? Keep your **FREE Lusso Amethyst Necklace** anyway. No hard feelings.

**A collection of purple perfection.** Your **Lusso Amethyst Necklace** is a 200-carat symphony of smooth purple genuine gemstones. Each gemstone's shape and translucence ignites the velvety, violet hues. The polished amethysts are hand-strung on double-knotted jeweler's thread, and the stunning 18" necklace (with 2" extender) secures with a gold-finished lobster clasp. Once you wear it, you'll see that it hangs with the same weight and elegance as similar strands that sell for hundreds more.

**Too good to pass up. Too good to last long.** Amethyst is one of the world's most coveted gemstones and our supply is extremely limited. We can only offer such an outrageous deal for a short time every few years. Over 30,000 thrilled customers were lucky enough to get this promotion last time. **We only have about 2500 left in stock.** Call to reserve your **FREE Lusso Amethyst Necklace** today and treat yourself (or someone you love) to a brilliant new definition of priceless luxury!

**Lusso Amethyst Necklace** (200 ctw) ~~\$249\*\*~~

*Your Cost With Offer Code—* **FREE\***

\*pay only shipping & processing of \$24.95.

You must use the offer code below to receive this special free necklace.

**1-800-333-2045**

**Offer Code LAN397-02**

Mention this code for the free necklace.



Rating of A+



**Stauer**® 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. LAN397-02,  
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

*"This necklace is  
beautiful. I could  
not believe my  
eyes...GREAT!"*

—Bonnie  
Longs, S. C.

**FREE Amethyst Necklace**  
Limited to the first 2500 responders  
to this ad only!

**Buy NOW,  
pay NEVER.**

An Exclusive **FREE**  
Jewelry Offer  
from Stauer®

Necklace enlarged to  
show luxurious detail.

**200 carats of pure luxury**  
**independently appraised at \$295†...yours FREE!\***

200 ctw of genuine amethyst • Gold-finished spacers • 18" + 2" length necklace

\* This offer is valid in the United States (and Puerto Rico) except in TX, FL, CO, OK, RI, NH, WV, OR, SC, VA, ID and CA. These state residents will be charged one cent (\$.01) + shipping & processing for the item. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. Offer subject to state and local regulations. Not valid with any other offers and only while supplies last. This offer is limited to one item per shipping address. \*\* Free is only for customers using the offer code versus the price on Stauer.com without your offer code. † For more information concerning the appraisal, visit <http://www.stauer.com/appraisedvalues.asp>.

*Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices™*



# Creation of U.S. Space Force



## SUPPORT

**Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La.**

■ Scalise is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.



## OPPOSE

**Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass.**

■ Moulton is a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

In September 1918, Army Col. William “Billy” Mitchell led nearly 1,500 Allied aircraft in one of the first large-scale air-ground attacks in history at the Battle of Saint-Mihiel, France. What Mitchell knew then, and others later realized, was that warfare had forever changed and air superiority would play a pivotal role in all future conflicts. World War II proved this to be true, and in 1947 Congress passed the National Security Act, creating, among other things, the U.S. Air Force.

A century later, it is necessary for us to build a modern and adaptive force able to protect our nation from current, emerging and future threats. Our way of life depends on technology, from instantaneous global communications to GPS signals for timing and navigation, and all these depend on a constellation of satellites that enable our modes of transportation, commerce and banking. While space may not currently be a contested environment, our adversaries seek new ways to challenge our security. Our military’s ability to defend these interests and guarantee our unfettered access to space is a critical national-security priority, and it is imperative we maintain the technological advantage.

It is for these reasons that I support President Trump’s vision for a Space Force and look forward to working with Secretary James Mattis, the Department of Defense and congressional leaders to provide our men and women in uniform the resources and authorities they need to accelerate our space capabilities. While many challenges remain, I am confident that the sixth branch of our armed forces will follow in the legacy of our other services, led by dedicated Americans committed to protecting our freedoms.

When I served in Iraq, we had to rummage through corroded rounds from the Vietnam War to load our magazines for the invasion. They gave us woodland-camo chemical weapons suits for the hot brown desert (we joked that they must be

saving the desert camo for Korea). We skated by on one, maybe two MREs per day for the first month in the sweltering Iraqi heat. But it’s not like our military wasn’t well-funded. The problem was that Congress spent your taxpayer money in the

wrong places, on the wrong things – and seemed to forget the infantry in the process.

Fifteen years later, we are poised to make that mistake again with the creation of a Space Force. This new force will cost \$13 billion over the first five years, which might be a reasonable price tag if we didn’t already have one. Across the country, Air Force Space Command has thousands of capable airmen and women defending us from air and space threats. Their job is crucial not just for national defense but for everyday communications, media and entertainment, and tools like GPS that we depend on. Protecting those intertwined networks is their mission, and we should trust them to do it.

Instead of wasting money setting up a new bureaucracy, we need to develop next-generation capabilities like hypersonic weapons, artificial intelligence and cyber defense. We need to invest in education and advanced research programs to maintain our role as the leader of the free world with the strongest military ever known.

That’s why I’m opposed to the Space Force. There are plenty of smart places to spend money to make us stronger and safer. There’s no reason to spend it on something we already have.

## THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

*President Trump announced a plan to create a separate military service for space. Supporters say the Space Force is necessary to guard against new and future threats.*

*Critics say a new branch would be duplicative and a waste of resources.*

## CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • Phone: (202) 225-3121

# *I Love You Always*

## DIAMOND RING SET

A beautiful mocha and white diamond ring set, engraved with a heartfelt sentiment.

Don't miss this opportunity to show the world that the love you share is timeless. Presenting the *I Love You Always Diamond Ring Set*.

**Exquisitely designed.**

With classic beauty, this ring trio elegantly conveys the depth of your love. The 14kt gold-plated bands dazzle with 4 sparkling "mocha" diamonds and 9 fiery white diamonds, and can be worn individually or stacked. What's more, the rings are engraved with the tender sentiment "I loved you then, I love you still, I always have, I always will."

**The perfect gift — order today!**

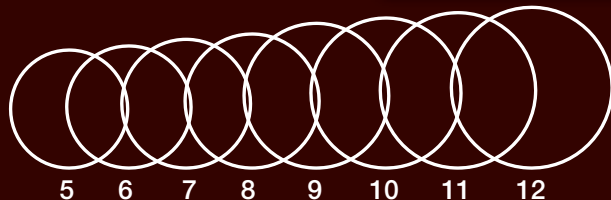
*I Love You Always Diamond Ring Set* is attractively priced at \$149 plus \$7<sup>80</sup> shipping and service, payable in four monthly installments of \$39<sup>20</sup>. Your satisfaction is guaranteed; if you are not delighted, simply return the ring set within 90 days for a replacement or refund. Don't delay - order today!



Three glamorous rings, one spectacular statement!



Ring set shown actual size.



To find ring size, match a circle with the inside of a ring (a band works best for measuring).

The Danbury Mint  
47 Richards Avenue  
Norwalk, CT 06857

ORDER FORM

Order promptly  
for Christmas  
delivery.

**Yes! Send me the *I Love You Always Diamond Ring Set*.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print clearly.

Ring size \_\_\_\_\_ (Available in whole sizes 5 to 12. Please refer to the sizing guide above.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

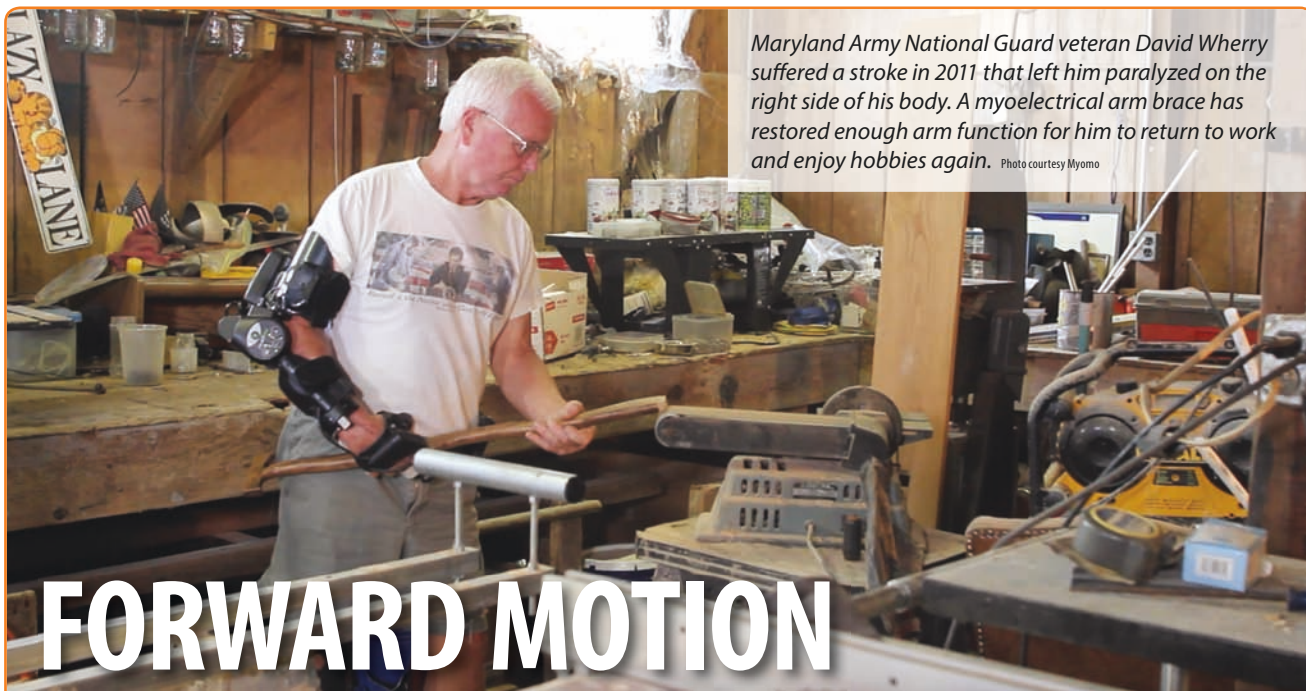
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Orders subject to acceptance.

**For guaranteed Christmas delivery: 1-800-726-1184 • [www.danburymint.com](http://www.danburymint.com)**

52150026A119





Maryland Army National Guard veteran David Wherry suffered a stroke in 2011 that left him paralyzed on the right side of his body. A myoelectrical arm brace has restored enough arm function for him to return to work and enjoy hobbies again. Photo courtesy Myomo

# FORWARD MOTION

*Robotic arm gives stroke survivor his life back.*

BY BETH W. ORENSTEIN

As many as nine in 10 stroke survivors suffer some degree of paralysis immediately after their strokes. Army National Guard veteran David Wherry of Maryland is one of them. He lost all movement on his right side after he suffered a stroke in 2011, when he was 61.

Wherry, who at the time owned an HVAC business, had come home for lunch. His wife looked at him and knew something was wrong. "I told her, 'I don't feel right, but nothing hurts,'" he recalls.

At her insistence, they went to the hospital, where doctors performed a few tests, and Wherry was kept overnight. "When I woke up the next morning, I couldn't move my right side," he says. "I'd had a stroke overnight in the hospital."

Wherry has diabetes and high blood pressure, which are risk factors for stroke. Although he's on medication to control these conditions, he didn't listen to his body, he admits. "I have only one person to blame, and that's me."

After a week in the hospital, Wherry was transferred to a rehabilitation center in Wilmington, Del.

With limited movement on his right side, Wherry had to give up his business and let the woodworking tools he loved gather dust in his basement. Playing with his seven grandchildren was out, too.

Depressed but determined to improve, Wherry sought help from VA. At one of his rehab sessions, a physical therapist said he would be a good candidate for a MyoPro robotic arm, which is designed to restore function to weakened or paralyzed arms of patients suffering from stroke and other diseases and injuries. Through noninvasive sensors on the arm, the device recognizes the electric

signals the patient's muscles send and helps restore them.

"It gets your muscles and your brain working together," Wherry says.

**RESTORED FUNCTION** Wherry was eligible for the MyoPro through VA. The challenge was finding the right people there and at the University of Maryland, where he was being treated, to authorize it. His persistence paid off. He has had the MyoPro arm for about 18 months and says it's made a huge difference for him – physically and emotionally.

"Since I got MyoPro, my life has really gained some more direction," he says.

Wherry is able to help around the house – loading and unloading the dishwasher, and doing laundry – and play with his grandchildren again. He's even been able to return to work, riding along with other HVAC technicians for a friend's business and offering them advice and instruction at their job sites.

Wherry hopes the MyoPro will restore even more arm function over time, allowing him to do even more. He uses the robotic arm a couple hours a day, three to four times a week. "I was told the object of the arm is to get rid of it," Wherry says. "It is supposed to help you along and make your natural movement and action better and, for me, it has and it does. I'm not to the point yet where I can make use of it less, but I can see that day coming."

Before he started using the arm, Wherry couldn't make a fist, he says. "Now I can not only make a fist, but I can open it most of the way."

See **STROKE** on page 16



# Treating your COPD and still struggling?

**Chronic productive cough? Repeated antibiotic use for chest infections?**



These may be indicators of bronchiectasis—a common but frequently undiagnosed condition caused by chronic inflammation of the airways.<sup>1</sup>

COPD is about four times more prevalent among veterans than in the general population.<sup>2</sup> Half of people with serious COPD may have bronchiectasis.<sup>3</sup>



inCourage® Airway Clearance Therapy is a drug-free way to clear excess mucus from the lungs. Ask your doctor if the inCourage System may be right for you. For a bronchiectasis information kit, call 833.208.5324 or visit [www.respirtech.com/be](http://www.respirtech.com/be).

**We change lives. We help people breathe better.**

1. Maselli DJ, Amalakuhan B, Keyt H, Diaz AA. Suspecting non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis: What the busy primary care clinician needs to know. *Int J Clin Pract.* 2017;71(2):e12924.
2. Basu S, VA/DoD Issue First COPD Guideline Update Since 2007. *U.S. Medicine.* 2015.
3. Martínez-García MA, de la Rosa Carrillo D, Soler-Cataluña JJ, et al. Prognostic value of bronchiectasis in patients with moderate-to-severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* 2013;187:823–831.

RespirTech®





## A friend in need

*Pet owners facing high vet bills have options.*

BY STEPHANIE BOUCHARD

When your pet gets sick or falls victim to an accident, it's scary. Scary because you're worried for your pet – and because you're not sure how you're going to afford the veterinary bills.

Veterinary medical care, like human health care, can get expensive quickly even if you have pet insurance. If you're faced with an unexpected veterinary bill that you can't afford, financial aid options are available, says Nicole Forsyth, president and CEO of RedRover, a California-based nonprofit that aids animals in distress.

**Fundraising** Traditional ideas include bake sales, garage sales, posting flyers or collection jars at your veterinarian's office or local shelter (with their permission), and taking out an ad in local newspapers. More people are raising money online, too, using tools like Facebook or GoFundMe.

**Grants** These are usually awarded based on medical urgency, financial need, available funding and eligibility. Many grants are for small amounts – RedRover's relief grants average \$200 – so you will likely have to apply for more than one.

**Financial assistance** Several organizations offer financial aid for veterinary care. One that works specifically with veterans is Dogs on Deployment, a California-based nonprofit that places pets of deployed servicemembers with foster families for temporary care. It also offers limited financial assistance, but be aware that it can take months for applications to be processed.

**Arrangements with your veterinary office** Some may be able to arrange a payment plan for you, or may be willing to barter.

**Comparison shop** Veterinary care costs vary widely, so it might be worth shopping around, Forsyth says.

**Low-cost veterinary clinics** These may be run by local nonprofits or veterinary schools. Ask your veterinarian or local shelter workers if they know of low-cost clinics nearby.

*Stephanie Bouchard is a Maine-based freelance writer.*  
**[stephaniebouchard.net](http://stephaniebouchard.net)**

Learn more about managing veterinary care costs:

 [redrover.org](http://redrover.org)  
 [humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)  
 [aspca.org](http://aspca.org)  
 [paws.org](http://paws.org)



Photo by Maddie McGarvey

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.



Photo courtesy Myomo

**STROKE** *continued from page 14*

He's also able to practice woodworking again. His latest project is making walking canes for people like him, who due to a stroke or other condition have limited use of a limb. In the first four months with his MyoPro, Wherry was able to make 20 canes.

Wherry wants to get a robotic device for his ankle, and is enrolled in another program that may make it possible someday. His goal is a full recovery, and he is optimistic. "You've got to make up your mind and do what you can to better yourself," he says.

**STROKE SIGNS** Someone in the United States suffers a stroke every four minutes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Every minute a stroke goes untreated and blood flow to the brain is blocked, a person loses 1.9 million neurons. As a result, he or she can lose speech, movement, memory and other functions.

Know the signs of a stroke and seek immediate medical attention if you suspect you or someone else is experiencing one.

According to the National Stroke Association, symptoms of a stroke include, but are not limited to, sudden:

- Weakness or numbness in your face, arm or leg, especially on one side of your body.
- Confusion or trouble speaking or understanding what others are saying.
- Trouble seeing in one or both of your eyes.
- Trouble walking, dizziness, or loss of balance and coordination.
- Severe headache with no obvious cause.

Note the time so you can tell a doctor when the first symptoms occurred. Timing is critical when treating a stroke. The sooner you receive treatment, the greater your chances of a full recovery.

*Beth W. Orenstein of Northampton, Pa., is a freelance medical writer and regular contributor to Living Well.*

# NEW Rechargeable Digital Hearing Aid Technology Only \$229!\*

(\*Each when you buy a pair)

The new more powerful HearClear™ HCR3 rechargeable hearing aid combines advanced technology with a low price to provide you with outstanding value.

## 5 Star Reviews! ★★★★★

**Outstanding Product!** "This product is outstanding. Dad loves it, my mom loves it, and I am grateful! Don't believe that you have to spend a lot of money to get a quality hearing aid"  
- *Gilmore B.*

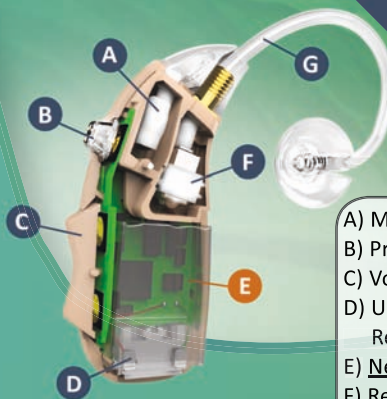


## HCR3 Features!

- ✓ Digital sound processing chip provides **clear sound and makes speech easier to understand** with less feedback than old analog technology
- ✓ Don't worry about replacing batteries! **Full Charge Gives 16 Hours of Use! (Charger Included)**
- ✓ Easy **On / Off Button**
- ✓ Automatic Noise Reduction and Feedback Cancellation
- ✓ **100% Money Back Guarantee**
- ✓ **4 Programs** for different listening situations

## Even Better In Pairs!

Your brain is designed to use both ears working together. In fact, studies show that you may be able to **hear up to 3 times better** in noisy situations when using two hearing aids. Buy a pair for the best results and maximum savings!



- A) Microphone
- B) Program Button
- C) Volume Control
- D) USB Charging Port & Rechargeable Battery
- E) New Digital Processor
- F) Receiver (Speaker)
- G) Sound Tube

**New Improved R3 Digital Processor™!**

## Simple. Affordable.

## Rechargeable Digital Hearing Aid - For Only \$229!\*

The new HearClear™ HCR3 Rechargeable Digital Hearing Aids are now available to you for an unbelievably affordable price! The HCR3 is packed with the same key technologies that all high end digital hearing aids share while leaving out the extra bells and whistles that increase cost and require expensive adjustments. This helps you **hear better, while saving you a lot of money.**

Your new HearClear HCR3 hearing aids work at a fraction of the cost of name-brand hearing aids, and you don't have to keep changing the batteries!

You will love the discreet, comfortable, lightweight Open-fit design. The HCR3 is **shipped directly to you and pre-programmed for most hearing losses.** It will help you hear better right out of the box and does not require professional appointments to make costly adjustments.

You can spend thousands for an expensive hearing aid, or you can spend just \$249 for a hearing aid that is great for most hearing losses (**only \$229 each when you buy a pair – hear up to 3 times better than wearing just one**). We are so sure you will love your hearing aids that we offer a **100% Money Back Guarantee - Risk Free** if you are not satisfied for any reason.

## NOW ON SALE!

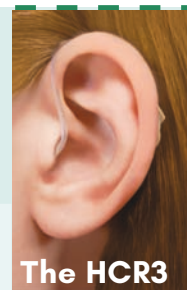
~~List Price: \$849~~  
**Sale Price: \$229\***

## MONEY SAVING OFFER!

Use Coupon Code: **AL8B**

**1-877-423-4616**

**\*Only \$229 Each When You Buy A Pair!**  
(Coupon Code & Price Valid For A Limited Time Only)



**The HCR3**

Not available in the state of Washington  
**Advanced Affordable Hearing**™  
Affordable Quality Since 1996!



**FDA**  
REGISTERED

Visit and Save: **www.AdvancedHearing.com/AL8B**





Crested Butte, Colo. Photo by Trent Bona

# 5 HIDDEN SKI GEMS

*Go off the beaten snow path.*

BY LYN METTLER

If long lift lines and crowded slopes aren't your idea of a ski vacation, check out these fantastic winter getaways that most Americans have yet to fully discover.

**Crested Butte, Colo.** Between Grand Junction and Colorado Springs is the small town of Crested Butte, a far cry from busy ski resorts like Vail and Aspen. There's more than 1,500 acres of skiable terrain, with half the mountain dedicated to beginner and intermediate skiers. When you're not racing down the slopes, enjoy the distinct Western vibe of this former mining town, where many original miner shacks stand behind newer homes on city streets. Some historic structures, most dating to the 1880s, include the Masonic Hall, St. Patrick's Church and Crested Butte Mountain Heritage Museum, originally a blacksmith's shop.

**Mount Hood, Ore.** Imagine skiing with a grand mountain in the background. Outdoor adventurers enjoy these and other spectacular views in the winter playground that is Mount Hood. Timberline Lodge & Ski Area has the longest ski season in North America, and Mt. Hood Skibowl has the country's largest night-ski area, along with Cosmic Tubing illuminated by colored LED lights – fun for kids and adults.

**Wildcat Mountain Resort, Gorham, N.H.** In the Northeast, try skiing Wildcat Mountain in White Mountain National Forest. It has the state's longest

green beginner trail, one of New Hampshire's longest ski seasons and a high-speed chairlift that delivers you to the summit in less than seven minutes. The 'Cat is known for its great views of Mount Washington, Tuckerman Ravine and the surrounding Presidential Range.

**Boyne Highlands Resort, Harbor Springs, Mich.** Located at the top of Michigan, close to Canada, Boyne Highlands Resort has five terrain parks with a halfpipe, jumps, boxes and rails, as well as 20 miles of cross-country skiing trails and 55 runs with lengths of up to 1.25 miles. Visitors can also enjoy winter horseback rides, zip-lining, sledding and ice skating in Harbor Springs, which averages 140 inches of snowfall. Resort accommodations include hotel rooms and an inn, as well as townhome and vacation rentals.

**Telluride, Colo.** The views while skiing don't get any better than Telluride, an out-of-the-way town in southwestern Colorado served by only a handful of airlines. Set in a box canyon and surrounded by the peaks of the San Juan Mountains, Telluride has an above-town ski resort with a free gondola, backcountry skiing and hike-to terrain. Other activities include snowshoeing, sleigh rides and snowy fat-tire bike rides.

*Lyn Mettler is a freelance travel writer who blogs at [GotoTravelGal.com](http://GotoTravelGal.com).*

Do you like to travel with your pet? Compare the Market found that Air France is the **most pet-friendly airline**, allowing up to three furry (or feathered) companions along for no more than the cost of an extra suitcase. It also found that New York City is the most pet-friendly destination, with no bans on pets of any breed.

For a historic holiday adventure, head to **Gettysburg, Pa.**, where many attractions have Christmas-themed tours. Highlights include Shriver House's "A Civil War Christmas," and the Eisenhower farm with President Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower's holiday decorations on display throughout their home.

StockSnap.io



# "To you, it's the perfect lift chair. To me, it's the best sleep chair I've ever had."

— J. Fitzgerald, VA



Sit up, lie down —  
and anywhere  
in between!

Easy-to-use remote for  
massage, heat, recline and lift

We've all had nights when we just can't lie down in bed and sleep, whether it's from heartburn, cardiac problems, hip or back aches – it could be a variety of reasons. Those are the nights we'd give anything for a comfortable chair to sleep in, one that reclines to exactly the right degree, raises feet and legs to precisely the desired level, supports the head and shoulders properly, operates easily even in the dead of night, and sends a hopeful sleeper right off to dreamland.

**Our Perfect Sleep Chair® is just the chair to do it all.** It's a chair, true – the finest of lift chairs – but this chair is so much more! It's designed to provide total comfort and relaxation not found in other chairs. It can't be beat for comfortable, long-term sitting, TV viewing, relaxed reclining and – yes! – peaceful sleep.



This lift chair puts you  
safely on your feet!

Our chair's recline technology allows you to pause the chair in an infinite number of positions, including the Trendelenburg position and the zero gravity position where your body experiences a minimum of internal and external stresses. You'll love the other benefits, too: It helps with correct spinal alignment, promotes back pressure relief, and encourages better posture to prevent back and muscle pain.

**And there's more!** The overstuffed, oversized biscuit style back and unique seat design will cradle you in comfort. Generously filled, wide armrests provide enhanced arm support when sitting or reclining. The high and low heat settings along with the multiple massage settings, can provide a soothing relaxation you might get at a spa – just imagine getting all that in a lift chair! It even has a battery backup in case of a power outage. Shipping charge includes white glove delivery. Professionals will deliver the chair to the exact spot in your home where you want it, unpack it, inspect it, test it, position it, and even carry the packaging away! You get your choice of fabrics and colors – **Call now!**

## The Perfect Sleep Chair®

# 1-888-566-2346

Please mention code 110252 when ordering.

Because each Perfect Sleep Chair is a custom-made bedding product, we can only accept returns on chairs that are damaged or defective.

### Long Lasting DuraLux Leather



### DuraLux II Microfiber



46482



# Retirees gain access to more dental options

BY TOM PHILPOTT

Military retirees can review online features and monthly premiums for a new set of dental plan options available to them to replace the TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan (TRDP), which expires Dec. 31.

Congress voted two years ago to end TRDP and grant 3 million military retiree households access to the same menu of dental plans administered for federal civilian employees by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Features of those plans and premium rates for 2019 can be viewed online at **[tricare.benefeds.com](http://tricare.benefeds.com)**.

Retirees will also receive plan information at their last known addresses. They are being offered at least 10 dental plans, but the precise number will vary based on where retirees reside.

When military retirees and families decide on the plan best for them, they can enroll during an open season that runs through Dec. 10. They can choose self-only coverage, self-plus-one coverage or self-and-family coverage, with premiums set accordingly. New plan coverage will begin Jan. 1.

Military retirees will also be eligible, along with other TRICARE beneficiaries – including families of active-duty personnel, drilling reserve-component personnel and their families – to buy into one of four vision insurance plans offered to federal civilians. For vision insurance, they must first be enrolled in a TRICARE plan.

The combined package for military retirees and their families, and the vision care-only option for most other TRICARE beneficiaries, is more widely known as the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP).

Patrick Grady, chief of the TRICARE Health Plan, coordinated the FEDVIP launch for TRICARE beneficiaries with OPM officials. Grady says it's important that military retirees understand they must take an active role in transitioning from their expiring dental plan to one of the FEDVIP options.

"They need to get engaged during open season and choose which plan is right for them and their families," Grady says. "This isn't a passive approach anymore. But we're excited about the options they'll have to choose from."

Nearly 840,000 military-retiree households, a total of 1.7 million beneficiaries, relied on TRDP for dental insurance. It was the sole military-backed dental coverage offered to retirees. Delta Dental serviced the contract for the past five years. When Congress ordered that military retirees have access to the same robust menu of dental options as federal civilians, it also directed DoD to work

with OPM to offer vision insurance options too, and not only to retirees but other TRICARE beneficiaries.

As with TRDP, premiums and cost shares, including deductibles and copayments, are set so that FEDVIP enrollees fully cover program costs. Although OPM administers the menu of plans, the government isn't subsidizing their benefits.

Military participants can pay premiums through a post-tax allotment from either their monthly basic pay or retirement pay.

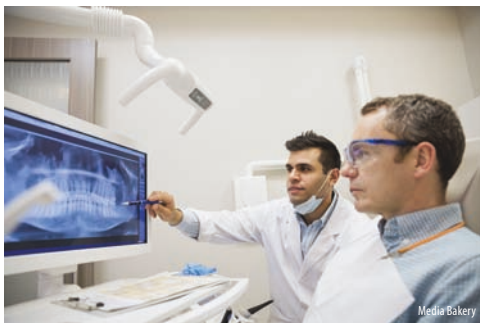
The advantage of FEDVIP is the variety of options, Grady says. Some military retirees who work as federal civilians, or have spouses who do, have complained that total out-of-pocket dental costs will rise. That's because until now they have been able to secure dual policies, using TRDP as first payer and FEDVIP as second payer. That dual-coverage option ends Dec. 31.

Dental benefits for active-duty members and families will continue to be provided by military treatment facilities or through separate contracts managed by the Defense Health Agency. Reservists and their families will also continue to purchase a premium-based TRICARE dental plan. United Concordia administers these programs.

Before beneficiaries shop for a FEDVIP plan, they should verify their personal information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), including mailing address, marital status and number of dependents, Grady says.

Retirees and other TRICARE beneficiaries can sign up at **[tricare.benefeds.com](http://tricare.benefeds.com)** to get alerts when new information on FEDVIP is added.

*Tom Philpott has been covering military personnel and veterans issues for more than 40 years.*





# THE VIETNAM VETERANS TRIBUTE COLT .45 PISTOL

FEATURING ARTWORK BY VIETNAM VETERAN AL ALEXANDER | LICENSED BY THE ARMY HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

To those who fought battles in the steaming jungles of Vietnam. To those who patrolled day and night, with threats of attack at every hour. To those who weathered the ambushes, the village mortar rounds and rifle fire. To those who patrolled the Mekong Delta in PBRs and flew in helicopters. To those in the fields and jungles always on the watch for punji sticks and explosives.

To those who returned home to a divided United States. To those who never returned home. To those who were glued to the nightly news, waiting for news of their father, or husband, or brother, or friend. To those who were drafted. To those who volunteered. To those who served. The Vietnam Veterans Tribute Colt .45 Pistol is dedicated to you.

For those who served in that faraway country, and for those who wish to honor them, this Tribute captures images from Vietnam that will be familiar to many of the veterans who courageously and honorably served in Vietnam when called by our country.

Al Alexander proudly served in the Vietnam War and this is reflected in the paintings he has created. His artwork is an especially fitting tribute to those who served in Vietnam, and those Americans who waited for them to come home. We are honored he has authorized America Remembers to issue this Tribute focused on his Vietnam War paintings.

## A TRUSTED MILITARY SIDEARM – A FITTING TRIBUTE



No firearm in history can boast a more impressive record of military service than the Colt .45. It was a trusted firearm for those who served in Vietnam, so far from home. The jungles and fields were brutally hot and humid, the days long and tedious and filled with uncertainty and danger. There wasn't much an American soldier or marine could trust there, but he could trust his weapon.

Nothing about the Vietnam War was easy. Those who were there remember swampy grasslands, rice paddies, dense

jungles, the heat and an elusive enemy; a war that took place halfway around the world in a country divided by decades of bitter history. They came from all over the country, from all walks of life, to fight for freedom on the other side of the world.

## HONOR VIETNAM VETERANS WITH THIS EXCLUSIVE OFFER

America's involvement spanned three decades and it's estimated that more than 2,500,000 Americans served in Vietnam. All the brave Americans who served in Vietnam deserve an honored place in America's history. When our nation called, they answered. Few generations have faced a more daunting challenge than those who fought in Southeast Asia. They didn't hesitate to put their lives on the line and give everything in defense of freedom. This Tribute honors their dedicated service.

This Vietnam Veterans Tribute Colt .45 Pistol is authorized by The Army Historical Foundation, in a very limited edition of only 500 Tribute pistols, available exclusively from America Remembers.

Order today and we will arrange delivery of your working Tribute pistol through the licensed firearms dealer of your choice. As always, you will receive your Tribute with our 30-day guarantee of satisfaction.

Whether you are a veteran who answered the call to duty, or you wish to honor your father, husband, brother, friend or other family member, The Vietnam Veterans Tribute Pistol is sure to become a cherished addition to your collection. Order today to secure this fitting tribute to all those who served our nation in Vietnam.

The left side of the slide features four paintings of Al Alexander's: "Heavy Weight Contenders", "Delta Dragon Ship", "Red LZ" and "Lonely Point". You'll find tanks patrolling a jungle road, Huey helicopter dropping troops in a hot landing zone (a Red LZ), a point man on the lookout as he approaches a river crossing, and a patrol boat engaging the enemy on the river bank. Near the muzzle end, you'll find a banner reading, "Vietnam Veterans Tribute".



The right side features: "Another Day at the Office", "Double Trouble" and "Ringside for a Fast Mover". You'll find a helicopter gunner covering troops on the ground, personnel carriers with troops and helicopters overhead, and a Phantom dropping napalm as troops observe from a distance. You'll also find a banner reading "Lest We Forget, All Gave Some, Some Gave All", in honor of all who served in Vietnam.

MODEL: COLT® GOVERNMENT MODEL® ★ CALIBER: .45 ACP ★ EDITION LIMIT: 500

I wish to reserve \_\_\_ of the "Vietnam Veterans Tribute Colt .45 Pistol," a working pistol, at the current issue price of \$1,995.\* My deposit of \$195 per Tribute is enclosed. I wish to pay the balance at the rate of \$100 per month, no interest or carrying charges. Certificate of Authenticity included. Thirty-day return privilege.

☐ Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ Charge payment of \$ \_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover

\*All orders are subject to acceptance and credit verification prior to shipment. Shipping and handling will be added to each order. Virginia residents please add sales tax.

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Display Case:** I wish to reserve the optional, luxuriously lined, custom-made display case with locking glass lid. My payment of \$149\* is enclosed or add to credit card.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone No. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**America Remembers®**

10226 Timber Ridge Drive ★ Ashland, Virginia 23005  
[www.americaremembers.com](http://www.americaremembers.com)

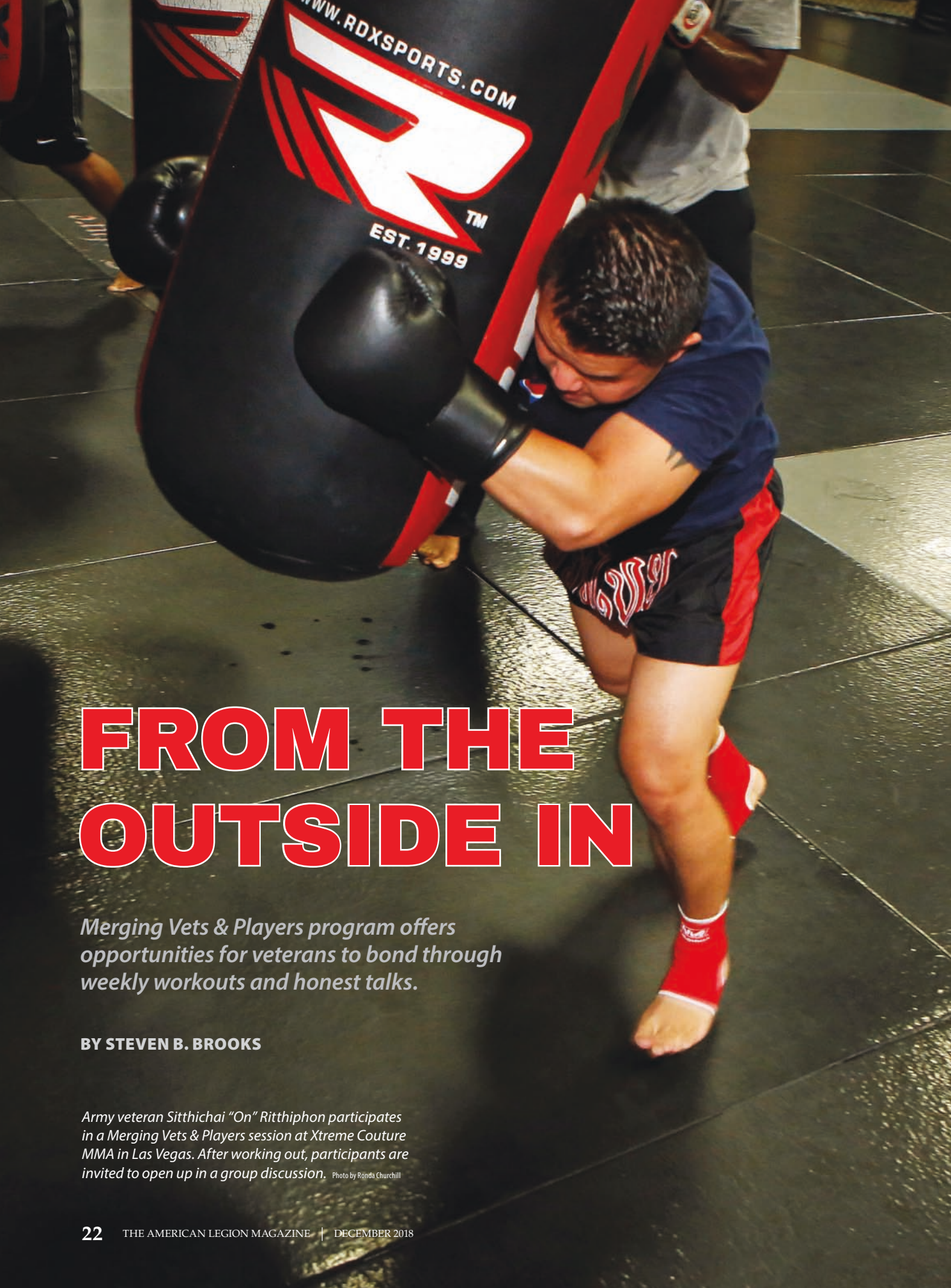
To place your reservation toll-free call 1-800-682-2291



## Display Case Available

An optional custom-built, wooden display case is available for purchase.





# FROM THE OUTSIDE IN

*Merging Vets & Players program offers opportunities for veterans to bond through weekly workouts and honest talks.*

**BY STEVEN B. BROOKS**

*Army veteran Sitthichai "On" Ritthiphon participates in a Merging Vets & Players session at Xtreme Couture MMA in Las Vegas. After working out, participants are invited to open up in a group discussion.* Photo by Ronda Churchill

**D**avid Rendon was in a bad place, and his family knew it.

An Army veteran who served from 2005 to 2016, Rendon was stumbling back toward a past that included substance abuse. “I was starting to get lost,” he says. “I had nowhere to go. After a visit to (a VA facility), my mother told me, ‘You have no life in your eyes.’”

That was then. On this warm July evening in Los Angeles, in the parking lot of Unbreakable Performance Center above Sunset Strip, the life is back in Rendon’s eyes. Surrounded by nearly 40 other veterans – ranging from the post-9/11 era to Vietnam – he’s warming up for another Merging Vets & Players (MVP) session. He’s bouncing around, hugging and shaking hands with people he considers brothers.

“It was almost like a miracle that I found MVP,” says Rendon, a member of Hollywood American Legion Post 43. “The camaraderie. Knowing that I’m in a safe space. It’s allowing me to take that next step in my recovery.

“My mother loves this. She has seen a huge difference when it comes to my attitude, the way I speak, the way I present myself, the way I’m not anxious, the way I’m not depressed. I have more good days than bad days. Now she doesn’t have to worry about me.”

Founded two years ago by Fox Sports NFL and mixed martial arts (MMA) reporter Jay Glazer, MVP brings together veterans and former professional athletes for weekly workout sessions followed by “fireside chats” where no subject is taboo. The owner of Unbreakable, Glazer teamed up with MVP cofounder Nate Boyer – an Army Green Beret veteran and pro football player – to grow the Los Angeles program. Similar programs have started in Las Vegas and Chicago.

MVP combines peer-to-peer mentoring with a workout that includes MMA. Participating weekly helped Army and National Guard veteran Heraclio Aguilar drop from more than 320 pounds to 240, giving him more confidence at a time when he really needed it.

“I knew the direction I wanted to go that fat was not going to be received well,” says Aguilar, also a Post 43 member. “The great thing about this program is that a lot of the veterans who do come, we’re not all on the same set path to get to become a physical trainer or to become something in the movies, become a writer, whatever. We all have different dreams and aspirations.”

MVP’s physical side is what attracted A.J. Perez – a Navy veteran, MVP program coordinator and

Post 43 member – to the program. Immediately, though, he saw the benefits of the chats.

“We sit here and just open up to one another – the good, the bad and the ugly,” Perez says. “We put the elephant in the room. It’s that safe space where people can share what they want to share. There’s no judgment. We just tell each other, ‘Hey, I’ve been there.’”

For Perez, MVP came at the right time. His transition from sailor to civilian was difficult. He’d been fired from various jobs, was fighting substance abuse and anger issues, and generally lived in a daze. “It felt like quicksand. The more you try, the more you sink.”

MVP gave Perez his footing and helped him see he wasn’t alone in the transition process. Hearing other veterans’ stories made him realize that it’s OK to struggle, he says. “It’s OK to feel how you’re feeling. In the civilian world, we say certain things or react a certain way, and people look at us like we’re crazy. We’re just so used to a certain kind of culture. With MVP, it brings like-minded individuals (together). We save each other and help each other out in any way we can: sharing resources, a simple phone call, text, go hang out, things like that.”

That’s what Boyer likes to hear. A veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, he spent three years as the University of Texas long snapper and played briefly for the Seattle Seahawks in the 2015 NFL preseason.

“I know how hard it is to transition out of something like that, to have a locker room and a community, a specific mission and purpose and identity, and then to not have any of it,” he says. “It’s hard for us, because we’ve been trained to suck it up and drive on, don’t ask for help. It’s easy for us to fall through the cracks, and let ourselves go physically and mentally.

“(With MVP), it’s consistent. Every week we meet up. We train together. We fight together. And then we talk about stuff. It’s hard to want to open up to people who haven’t been through something similar. This provides a space for us to do that. And it all stays here. That’s really what it is. There’s no magic beans or secret sauce. It’s just being here for one another.”

**BUILDING A TRIBE** Marine Corps veteran Krishna Flores experienced military sexual trauma that resulted in post-traumatic stress disorder after leaving the service in 2008. A member of Palisades American Legion Post 283, she’s been participating in the MVP program for a year and a half.





*During a recent “fireside chat,” Army veteran Gene Han received a hat and T-shirt for attendance achievements in the Los Angeles MVP program. Photo by Erick “Doc” Andino*

Being around the program’s male veterans is “kind of like exposure therapy for me,” Flores says. “I get a lot of anxiety. I’m still working through those symptoms. We all come with a lot of weight on our shoulders. We get to put it on the floor in a punching bag, and then we get to sit down and really lay out our heart.”

It’s also given her the opportunity to meet other female veterans. “There’s not a lot of us out there,” she continues. “If I can meet more of them, I can continue to build my tribe and my network and support group.”

Andi Ward, another member of Palisades Post 283, served in the Navy from 2007 to 2010. She came to MVP last February and enjoyed it so much she rearranged her entire schedule so she could keep coming back.

“When you walk in the room you almost feel like you’re back in the military,” Ward says. “People doing things together, sweating together, going through stuff together.”

Workouts facilitate a strong chat session, she adds. “Because there’s a physical aspect at the beginning, you form this bond with each other that you just can’t form in any other therapy session. You really feel like you know these people. You feel like you can trust them. You’ve just sweated with them for an hour. It just gives you this bond with them. You feel like you’ve been friends forever.”

Jacob Toups, MVP’s executive director, says the program’s physical and mental portions are interdependent. “There’s amazing evidence about how physical fitness opens people up,” he says. “It makes you vulnerable. If you took away the physical fitness part, I don’t think our peer mentoring would be as effective. It has to be both things together.”

**‘THE HUMAN INSIDE US’** At Xtreme Couture MMA in Las Vegas – owned by former UFC champion, Army Airborne veteran and MVP board member Randy Couture – a similar mix of veterans and athletes gathers on Fridays to grow physically and mentally. The latter has been especially helpful for former NFL player Gerome Sapp, a high school All-American in 1998 who went on to play for the University of Notre Dame and then had a five-year NFL career with the Baltimore Ravens and Indianapolis Colts.

With a finance degree from Notre Dame and an MBA from Harvard Business School, Sapp tried to enter the entrepreneurship world after the NFL but was unsuccessful, leaving him depressed. “I lost my identity,” he says.

Then he met Noel Huerta, program coordinator for the new MVP program in town. Sapp immediately found the outlet he’d been needing since leaving professional football – and with a group of people with whom he feels a connection.





# US MILITARY TRIBUTE RINGS YOUR CHOICE



**GREAT GIFT**

Expertly Hand-crafted  
in Solid Sterling Silver

Gleaming with Rich  
18K Gold Plating

Featuring a Custom Cut  
Genuine Black Onyx Stone

Engraved with the Noble  
Values of Each Military Branch



Comes in a Deluxe Wood  
Presentation Case with  
Engraved Plaque



**ARMY®**



**USMC**



**AIR FORCE™**



**NAVY®**

## For Distinguished Service... To Wear with Pride

Our U.S. Armed Forces—Air Force™, Army®, Navy®, USMC—and those who have served under their proud emblems have stood strong through the years defending freedom wherever challenged. Now, you can show your pride with our limited-edition tribute rings, honoring each military division.

### A SINGULAR ACHIEVEMENT IN CRAFTSMANSHIP AND DESIGN

Our "U.S. Military" Tribute Rings are individually crafted in solid sterling silver with 18K gold plating, and feature the branch's emblem or logo in raised relief against a custom-cut genuine black onyx center stone. The striking contrast of silver and gold continues in the rope borders that surround

the central emblem or logo and the sculpted eagles on each side. Adding to the meaning and value, the ring is engraved inside the band with the noble values of the military branch.

### LIMITED TO ONLY 5,000... ORDER NOW!

Each ring is available in sizes 8-15 and comes in a deluxe wood case with a plaque engraved with the words on the ring, and includes a Certificate of Authenticity. An exceptional value at \$249\*, you can pay for your ring in 6 easy installments of \$41.50. To reserve yours, backed by our unconditional 120-day guarantee, send no money now. Just mail the Priority Reservation. Hurry... this edition is strictly limited to 5,000!

\*For information on sales tax you may owe to your state, go to [bradfordexchange.com/use-tax](http://bradfordexchange.com/use-tax).

™Department of the Air Force. Officially Licensed Product of the Air Force ([www.airforce.com](http://www.airforce.com)). Official Licensed Product of the U.S. Army. By federal law, licensing fees paid to the U.S. Army for use of its trademarks provide support to the Army Trademark Licensing Program, and net licensing revenue is devoted to U.S. Army Morale, Welfare, and Recreation programs. U.S. Army name, trademarks and logos are protected under federal law and used under license by The Bradford Exchange.

™Officially Licensed by the Department of the Navy. ™Officially Licensed Product of the United States Marine Corps. ©2018 The Bradford Exchange 01-18594-001-BDMPC18



For Fastest Delivery, Order Now

1-866-768-6517

[bradfordexchange.com/military](http://bradfordexchange.com/military)

**PRIORITY RESERVATION**

**SEND NO MONEY NOW**

BRADFORD EXCHANGE  
JEWELRY

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

**YES.** Please reserve the "U.S. Military" Tribute Rings indicated below for me as described in this announcement.

**Ring Size (if known)**

To assure a proper fit, a ring sizer will be sent to you after your reservation has been accepted.

\*Plus a total of \$15.00 shipping and service each, plus sales tax (see [bradfordexchange.com](http://bradfordexchange.com)). Sales subject to product availability and credit approval.

- ☐ U.S. Air Force™ Ring.....01-26619-001  
☐ U.S. Army® Ring.....01-25530-001  
☐ U.S. Navy® Ring.....01-20091-001  
☐ USMC Ring.....01-18594-001

We must receive your initial payment by 12/12/18 to guarantee Christmas delivery.  
Call 1-866-768-6517 or visit [bradfordexchange.com/military](http://bradfordexchange.com/military)

Signature

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

E-Mail (Optional)



Magnificently Detailed  
from Every Angle!

**E94901**





*Air Force veteran Mitch Jones spars during an MVP session at Xtreme Couture MMA in Las Vegas. Photo by Ronda Churchill*

“I’d always had an affinity for the military,” Sapp says. “A lot of times professional athletes and those who enter the military come from the same socioeconomic backgrounds. And with MVP, we’re all looking for something we had before, whether in sports or in the military. The ability to interact with other people who share that need has really been therapeutic in a nontraditional way.”

Huerta, a Marine Corps veteran who served in Afghanistan, was with MVP at the ground floor in Las Vegas. He’s seen the program make a huge difference in less than two years.

“There are (veterans) who are displaced, alone, who didn’t have a place to be themselves and open up to each other and show how great they really are,” Huerta says. “We really wanted to give that to everybody ... create that unity we once had.”

The results are like something out of a Hollywood movie, he adds. “Seeing guys who were really close-minded and didn’t want to be around people, and how they change – seeing where they’re able to put their ego aside and work as a family – it’s amazing. You see the human inside us.”

For Leo Garcia, 55, MVP started as a way to take off weight. His doctor told Garcia, an Air Force veteran and member of American Legion Post 8 in

Las Vegas, that he was getting heavy. After joining the program, Garcia lost 25 pounds in two months. The program has also been a stress reliever.

“I needed something to release all the pressure that I go through,” he says. “I run four nonprofits. This was a great release for me. My wife noticed that my demeanor totally changes when I come home because I take it out on the bags or on the mat.”

Like others who have found MVP, though, the benefits for mental health have meant the most. “The peer-to-peer portion of the program is great, because what’s said here stays here,” Garcia says. “(Veterans) mental health care at our facility (in Las Vegas), they’re just overwhelmed. Three months later you may have a new doctor. (At MVP), they’re building a community, and that community stays here, and it grows. You know you can always reach out to someone here.” 🌿

*Steven B. Brooks is social media manager for The American Legion.*

Learn more about Merging Vets & Players:

🌐 [vetsandplayers.org](http://vetsandplayers.org)

Watch a video about the MVP program:

🌐 [legion.org/legiontv](http://legion.org/legiontv)

No contracts  
No cancellation fees

jitterbug  
flip

# Easier is better with the Jitterbug.



The Jitterbug® Flip, from the creators of the original easy-to-use cell phone, has big buttons and an exclusive 5Star® Urgent Response button on the keypad.

**EASY TO USE** Today, cell phones are hard to hear, difficult to dial and overloaded with features you may never use. That's not the case with the Jitterbug Flip. A large screen and big buttons make it easy to call family and friends. The powerful speaker ensures every conversation will be loud and clear. Plus, straightforward YES and NO buttons make navigating the menu simple.

Plans as low as  
**\$14<sup>99</sup>**  
month<sup>2</sup>

**EASY TO ENJOY** Wherever you go, a built-in camera makes it easy and fun for you to capture and share your favorite memories. And a flashlight with a built-in magnifier helps you see in dimly lit areas. With all the features you need, the Jitterbug Flip also comes with a long-lasting battery, so you won't have to worry about running out of power.

**EASY TO BE PREPARED** Life has a way of being unpredictable, but you can be prepared in any uncertain or unsafe situation with 5Star Service. Simply press the 5Star button to be connected immediately with a highly-trained Urgent Response Agent who will confirm your location, evaluate your situation and get you the help you need, 24/7.

The Jitterbug Flip is one of the most affordable cell phones on the market and comes with dependable nationwide coverage. Friendly customer service representatives will help figure out which phone plan is best for you, and with no contracts or cancellation fees, you can switch plans anytime. You can even keep your current landline or cell phone number. **Celebrate the holidays and get 25% off, from now until December 29th.**

Powered by the nation's largest and most  
dependable wireless network.



**NO CONTRACTS**  
No cancellation fees



Plus, get a **FREE** Car Charger

**BEST  
BUY.**

**RITE  
AID**

sears

## Why the Jitterbug Flip is your best choice for a new cell phone:

No contracts to sign, ever	Keep your current phone number	Award-winning, U.S.-based customer service	No hidden monthly fees	Brain Games powered by Posit Science®
----------------------------	--------------------------------	--	------------------------	---------------------------------------

To order or learn more, call  
**1-866-490-3370**

or visit us at  
**greatcall.com**

 **greatcall.**



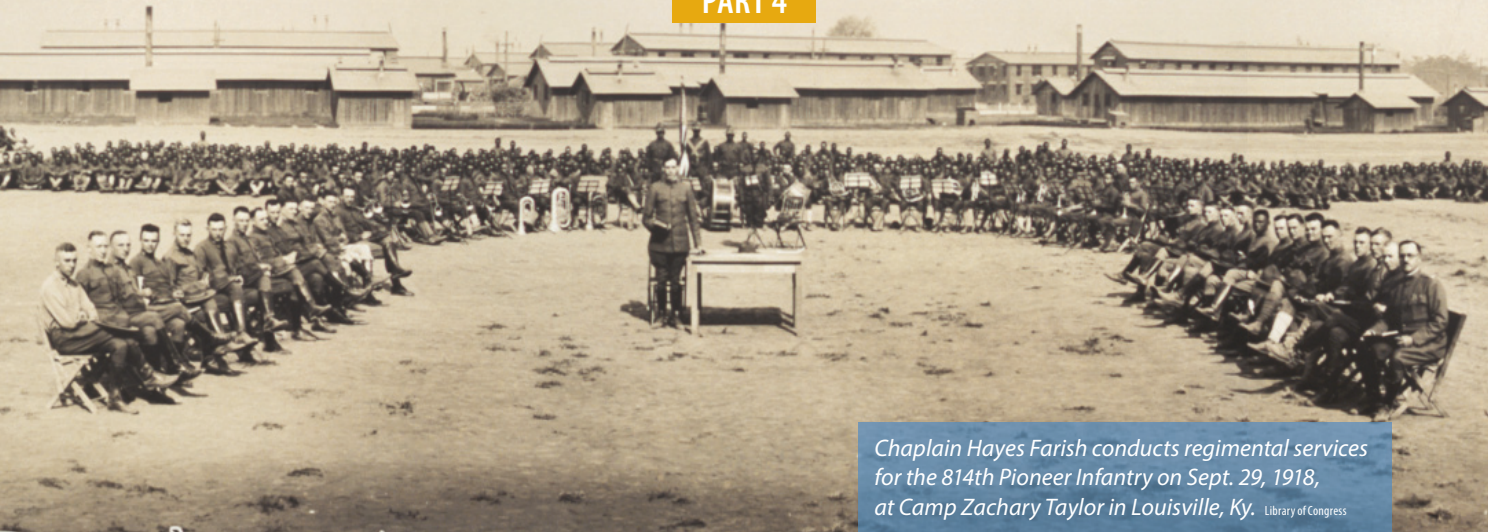
<sup>1</sup>25% off of \$99<sup>99</sup> MSRP is only valid for new lines of service. Offer valid 10/28/18 through 12/29/18. <sup>2</sup>Monthly fees do not include government taxes or assessment surcharges and are subject to change. Plans and services may require purchase of a GreatCall device and a one-time setup fee of \$35. 5Star or 9-1-1 calls can be made only when cellular service is available. 5Star Service tracks an approximate location of the device when the device is turned on and connected to the network. GreatCall does not guarantee an exact location. Car charger will be mailed to customer after the device is activated. Jitterbug, GreatCall, and 5Star are registered trademarks of GreatCall, Inc. Copyright ©2018 GreatCall, Inc.





TO STRENGTHEN A NATION / THE AMERICAN LEGION STORY

## PART 4



Chaplain Hayes Farish conducts regimental services for the 814th Pioneer Infantry on Sept. 29, 1918, at Camp Zachary Taylor in Louisville, Ky. Library of Congress

# ‘FOR GOD AND COUNTRY’

*Past national chaplain reflects on the founding spirit of The American Legion.*

BY TIERIAN “RANDY” CASH

**THERE WAS LITTLE DEBATE, IF ANY**, regarding whether to include “For God” in the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution, adopted at the St. Louis Caucus in May 1919. To the Legion’s founders, service to country was service to God, and service to God was service to country.

When the organizers sought spiritual leadership for the newly formed veterans group, not surprisingly they turned to military chaplains for guidance. Chaplains had shared the hardships and suffering of the soldiers, sailors and Marines in the trenches of the Great War. They knew the emotional and psychological toll combat had taken on them.

Four chaplains – a Roman Catholic, an Episcopalian and two Baptists – were instrumental in the founding of The American Legion and provided a spiritual underpinning for the new organization. These four – Charles H. Brent, Francis A. Kelly, Thomas H. Wiles and John Washington Inzer – helped

chart a course of service for God and country. Representing different faith traditions, these men unselfishly and in a nonsectarian manner skillfully guided the religious and patriotic principles of individual obligation to the community, state, nation and God.

Bishop Brent was American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) Gen. John J. “Black Jack” Pershing’s chaplain and senior chaplain for the AEF. At The American Legion’s formative Paris Caucus in March 1919, Brent put the connection between God and country this way:

*“It was a great soldier who said that the army has not merely a body but a soul and a conscience*

*as well. I believe the conscience of the army is speaking in this committee’s report. I believe the army’s soul is speaking in it. I was present on Saturday, at the beginning of this caucus, and I will tell you frankly that I was fearful at that moment, lest you should create a great mechanism without adequate purposes. My fears have been wholly allayed and I see in the report of your committee the ideals not only of the army but of the nation adequately expressed, and I wish to tell you gentlemen that so far as I have any ability to promote this great movement I give you my most hearty support. I believe that the army of today, when it goes back to citizen thinking and citizen acting, will be capable of contributing to the commonwealth of the United States, so as to change the character of the whole country and lift it up to a higher plane of political, industrial and religious life.”*





**I SERVED  
FOR**

*loved ones*

With The American Legion USAA REWARDS™ VISA SIGNATURE® credit card, you have the freedom to provide your loved ones with the things they deserve while benefiting from great rewards, competitive rates, and USAA's legendary customer service.

**JOIN USAA AND APPLY TODAY!**

CALL 877-699-2654 OR VISIT [USAA.COM/LEGIONVISA](https://usaa.com/legionvisa)



USAA is proud to be the  
**Preferred Provider**  
of Insurance and Financial Services  
to The American Legion

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them. Membership eligibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. This credit card program is issued by USAA Savings Bank, Member FDIC. © 2018 USAA. 248626-0318





*"It was a great soldier who said that the army has not merely a body, but a soul and a conscience."*

**AEF Senior Chaplain Bishop Charles Brent,**  
speaking at the Paris Caucus, March 17, 1919

Two months after the Paris Caucus, wartime veterans in the United States gathered in St. Louis to finalize plans for The American Legion. They did not immediately catch on to the spirit of the Paris Caucus, which had deliberately refused to take action on broad questions of policy until veterans at home were consulted. The inability to come to consensus on critical issues threatened the very existence of the new organization.

Baptist Rev. Inzer, a revival preacher and Army chaplain originally from Texas, was a member of the founding executive committee of The American Legion. In St. Louis, he delivered an impassioned message that saved the day and prevented the Paris spirit from being lost on the St. Louis crowd. In part, he said, "Now, the keyword that I want to say in the beginning is, at all costs we want to save this organization. We do not want anything to

arise today that will in any way mar the spirit of this great assembly and the work that it is going to do in the future. While you were deliberating here these past two days, some of you thought only of this hour and this moment. But gentlemen, I had an eye cast into the future, and I was dreaming dreams and seeing visions of the years that are to come and the wonderful work, the wonderful influence, and the mighty power that this organization is going to have and exert upon this nation and upon the whole world, and I want you to think of it in these terms ...

"Gentlemen, I want to say just here, if you can only think about this Legion ... as the jewel of the ages, I believe that is the best interpretation I know. I cannot say anything greater than this: I believe God raised up America for this great hour. I can say that the strong young man of the time is to be The American

Legion in this country and in the world."

Some might say the Legion's founding principle of service to God and country is a dialectical ambiguity, or even a conflict of interest, supporting principles of peace and war alike. After all, isn't faith and religion, in the end, about peace and studying war no more?

*"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."*

*"If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also ...."*

Not exactly fighting words.

But, of course, we all know there is more to it than that. As one chaplain friend of mine once said, "We are all peacemakers. We just have different roles."

We human beings were created for lives of peace but find ourselves living in a dangerous and often destructive world, and so we depend on the strength of

*"Our first duty is, beyond the shadow of a doubt, to get this boy on his legs, and once we get it on its legs, it will be like the mighty Niagara Falls. There is not anything in the world can dam it up. It will be a power that shall be known, and with influence all over America, and for good all over the world. Let's be quiet and let's be sensible today until we get this boy on his legs. He's just a recruit, a raw recruit, and he has to be trained, and we are going to do that thing now."*

**Chaplain John Inzer,** Alabama, speaking about the formation of The American Legion at the St. Louis Caucus, May 10, 1919



# Stay Safer & More Independent with a Jacuzzi® Luxury Walk-In Bathtub

**SAVE \$1,500**

on your NEW Walk-In Tub  
with ONE DAY installation

**NEW!**

## Epsom Salt Compatible

Now enjoy the  
relaxing health  
benefits of Epsom salt  
in your tub without  
the worry of rust or  
damage to your  
tub's components.

Enjoy Legendary

**Jacuzzi®**

Jet Technology

Low Entry Step

## Don't let mobility concerns end your ability to enjoy a relaxing & therapeutic bathing experience

The safety features of the Jacuzzi® Walk-In Bathtub help with mobility in and out of the tub, and also help you feel more secure and independent when bathing at home.

- ✓ **NEW!** A quieter and energy efficient pump provides a more enjoyable bathing experience
- ✓ **NEW!** Heated back and seat for more comfort and relief
- ✓ **NEW!** Relaxing Bubble Foot Massage
- ✓ **PLUS!** Installation in as little as one day!

**CALL TODAY & SAVE \$1,500**

Call now for limited-time savings on your new Walk-In Bathtub  
and details on installation that takes as little as ONE DAY!

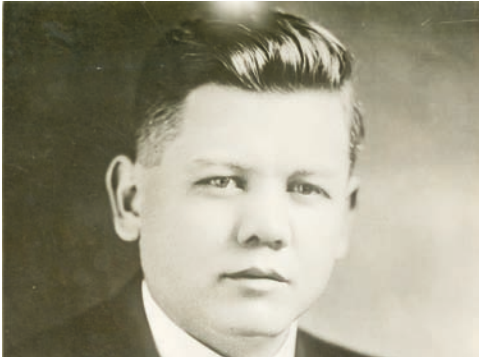
**Call: 1-888-343-0390**

or Visit: [www.JacuzziWalkIn.com](http://www.JacuzziWalkIn.com)

**The NEW Gold Standard  
of Walk-In Bathtubs**







*"... religion permeates every walk and activity of life – socially, morally, patriotically, educationally, industrially, and every other way – making each of these phases of Legion life more meaningful. There is scarcely a post that does not have its sick, its unemployed, its discouraged, its indifferent members. The Chaplain can assist greatly by bringing the gospel of good cheer and encouragement, not merely as a preacher, but as a good fellow, a warm friend and a true comrade."*

**National Chaplain Earle A. Blackman**, "Why is a Legion Chaplain?", *American Legion Weekly*, June 9, 1922

the military to resist evil and create conditions where justice and peace can thrive. It's like the Marine who once said to me, "Chaplain, if you were doing your job better, I wouldn't have to be doing mine."

Another chaplain put it this way: the world only needs two kinds of people to keep it safe and at peace, warriors and chaplains. The chaplain calls the world toward nonviolence as the only way to heal a terrifying and violent world. The other, the warrior, does God's work by defending civilized society and those who are vulnerable. Our world needs both prophets of peace and responsible warriors. As my friend said, "The chaplain is needed to keep the warrior honest, and the Marine is needed to keep the chaplain alive."

It is not trite to say that we live in a very challenging time. Yet I remain thoroughly convinced that America is a miraculous gift of God. It is not the new Israel or the kingdom of God on earth. But at the same time, it is too unlikely to be an accident, and too wonderful to be of our own doing.

Surely no nation in history has provided such opportunity for individual freedom and quality of life alike to all its citizens. And just as surely, no nation in history has given so much and been of such positive benefit to

the other nations of the world. America's very existence proclaims, protects and defends the vision that freedom and peace may be experienced throughout the world.

Those who would subject the people of the world to their inhumane control must first block from the oppressed the light of freedom and hope that shines so brightly in us. The determination of our enemies to knock down our towers and attempt to cripple our inspiring American influence is, in fact, a twisted acknowledgement of America's great and enduring value to the world.

That we live in America is, in itself, an act of grace. We may have come into it naturally – born into it – or were welcomed as immigrants and naturalized. By either route, America has been, for every one of us, a stupendous gift – a country built collectively by cherishing us individually; a country built of the effort of servicemen and women, statesmen, farmers and factory workers, those who toiled on the railroad and those who bankrolled it. Our philosophers, politicians and preachers, all together, created something bigger than any of us. And then they gave it to us.

Any true gift is infused with opportunity and responsibility that arises from it. An inherent

talent, a good education or money in the bank can all cry out to the blessed, "What will we make of this? What will we do individually? What will we do collectively in light of how many have done so much, and sacrificed so much, for us?"

The founders of The American Legion, warriors and preachers alike, understood the greatness of the gift. Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen over the past century have secured that gift in times of threat and war.

The motto of my Navy Chaplain Corps is "Vocati Ad Servitium." This means "called to serve."

The spirit of that motto has guided The American Legion for nearly 100 years now, all the way back to the earliest founders, four of whom were chaplains who not only embraced, but demanded, that the first words out of our mouths every time we gather to celebrate the gift of America and The American Legion are "for God and country." 🌿

*This essay is an adaptation of a message delivered on Aug. 30, 2015, at the 97th American Legion National Convention in Baltimore, when Tierian "Randy" Cash was serving his first term as national chaplain. Cash is now adjutant for the Department of North Carolina.*

News Flash....**Government Gets Something Right****Super Light Titanium Timepiece Loses Only One Second Every 20 Million Years.**

BOULDER, Colorado The U.S. government has engineered the most ingenious, most accurate clock in the world: the F-1 U.S. Atomic Clock in Boulder, Colorado. Our extraordinary new Stauer Titanium Atomic Watch utilizes the transmissions directly from that remarkable cesium fission atomic clock to report the most precise time. This scientifically advanced timepiece will gain or lose only one second over a 20 million-year period. It is that accurate! This perfectly tuned technological invention with the super light strength of titanium is now available for UNDER \$130.

**Super Light Titanium has two big advantages over steel.** One is corrosion resistance and the other is that titanium has the highest strength-to-weight ratio of any metal, which means that titanium is approximately 45% lighter than steel. But every other titanium watch that we can

find is priced at over \$400, and none of those are nearly as accurate as our atomic movement. Stauer has decided to bring these resources together in a timepiece that has the most accurate movement available today. You'll never have to set this watch. Just push one of the buttons and you are synchronized with the atomic clock in Colorado, and the hands of the watch move to the exact time position. The sleek black textured dial has luminous hands and markers plus the timepiece is water resistant to 3 ATM.

**A Titanium-clad offer.** This Titanium Atomic Watch exceeds the accuracy of any Swiss luxury automatic so you can be more punctual and keep most of your money in your wallet, not on your wrist. Look at your watch and we guarantee that the time is incorrect, unless you are wearing the advanced atomic technology.

The Stauer Titanium Atomic Watch is not available in stores and it comes with our 30 day money-back guarantee. If you're not completely satisfied with the accuracy, simply return the watch for the full purchase price. Includes a 2-year warranty on the movement.

*Not Available in Stores*

**Stauer Titanium Atomic Watch ~~\$195~~ now \$129** +S&P or  
**2 credit card payments of \$64.50** +S&P

Call Toll-Free now to take advantage of this limited offer.

**1-800-333-2045**

Promotional Code TTA512-10  
Please mention this code when you call.

**Stauer®**

14101 Southcross Drive W.,  
Ste 155, Dept. TTA512-10  
Burnsville, Minnesota 55337  
[www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)





# LORE OF THE LEGION

STORY: **JEFF STOFFER**  
ART: **GARY MARTIN**  
COLOR: **MARCHS ESKOW**

LESS THAN FIVE WEEKS AFTER THE AMERICAN LEGION'S FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION, COMMANDER FRANKLIN D'OLIER CALLS ON DEPARTMENT LEADERS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY TO MEET HIM IN WASHINGTON TO LOBBY CONGRESS FOR WHAT HE CALLS "BENEFICIAL LEGISLATION."

HELPING LEAD THIS FIRST WASHINGTON REHAB CONFERENCE ARE FORMER U.S. REP. THOMAS W. MILLER AND FUTURE LOBBYING LEGEND JOHN THOMAS TAYLOR.



"BE SPECIFIC AND FIRM."  
MILLER, A PARIS CAUCHUS FOUNDER, ADVISES HIS FELLOW LEGIONNAIRES.

D'OLIER RALLIES THE LEGION LEADERS IN WASHINGTON WHO STORM CAPITOL HILL, EN MASSE.

THE LEGION IS SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED, BUT WE HAVE ONLY JUST BEGUN TO SCRATCH THE SURFACE. WE HAVE AN ENORMOUS TASK AHEAD OF US.



DISABLED AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY INJURED WORLD WAR I VETERANS HAD BEEN SENT TO PUBLIC HEALTH HOSPITALS, INSANE ASYLUMS AND EVEN JAILS DUE TO A LACK OF FEDERAL FACILITIES OR ANY RESPONSIBLE AGENCY TO HELP THEM.



HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF VETERANS ARE UNEMPLOYED.



FAMILIES ARE BROKEN UP, AND THE CHILDREN OF VETERANS ARE SENT TO ORPHANAGES.



FEDERAL SUPPORT AGENCIES TO HELP VETERANS ARE SCATTERED AND DYSFUNCTIONAL.

D'OLIER TELLS HIS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION A HARD REALITY FROM AMERICA'S TRACK RECORD OF VETERAN SUPPORT. "IT IS NOT HARD FOR SOME TO GO TO WAR WHEN THE VISION OF THE WORLD IS CENTERED UPON THE WARRIOR IN UNIFORM. IT IS HARDER TO FIGHT THE QUIET AND LESS SPECTACULAR FIGHT FOR THOSE SAME IDEALS AT HOME... IN THE ORDINARY WALKS OF LIFE."

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DECIDE TO HOST A DINNER TO GET TO KNOW THE NEWLY FOUNDED AMERICAN LEGION A LITTLE BETTER.

ON DEC. 16, THE LEGION LEADERS ARRIVE FOR THE DINNER ON CAPITOL HILL. THEY COME PUSHING THE WHEELCHAIRS OF DISABLED COMRADES FROM WALTER REED ARMY HOSPITAL. SOME ARE ON CRUTCHES, HAVING LOST LIMBS IN THE WAR. OTHERS ARE BANDAGED WITH HEAD INJURIES.



WE INVITED SOME OF OUR FRIENDS TO JOIN US.

THEY HAVE SOME THOUGHTS ON THE SWEET BILL. THESE MEN ARE ONLY 20 MINUTES FROM YOUR CAPITOL.

THE FOLLOWING DAY, U.S. SEN. REED SMOOT OF UTAH CALLS D'OLIER TO HIS OFFICE.



WE'VE MADE SOME AMENDMENTS.

CONGRESS RAISES COMPENSATION FOR DISABLED VETERANS FROM \$30 TO \$80 PER MONTH AND UNEXPECTEDLY PASSES THE SWEET BILL BEFORE CHRISTMAS. THE AMERICAN LEGION HAS ITS FIRST LEGISLATIVE VICTORY UNDER ITS BELT.

NEXT: THE LEGION AND THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER!

FIND MORE ILLUSTRATED VETERAN STORIES AT [WWW.FULLMAGAZINEPUBLISHING.COM](http://WWW.FULLMAGAZINEPUBLISHING.COM)



# Wow! A Simple to Use Computer Designed Especially for Seniors!

*Easy to read. Easy to see. Easy to use. Just plug it in!*



*"I love this computer! It is easy to read and to use! I get photo updates from my children and grandchildren all the time."*

– Janet F.

Have you ever said to yourself "I'd love to get a computer, if only I could figure out how to use it." Well, you're not alone. Computers were supposed to make our lives simpler, but they've gotten so complicated that they are not worth the trouble. With all of the "pointing and clicking" and "dragging and dropping" you're lucky if you can figure out where you are. Plus, you are constantly worrying about viruses and freeze-ups. If this sounds familiar, we have great news for you. There is finally a computer that's designed for simplicity and ease of use. It's the WOW Computer, and it was designed with you in mind. This computer is easy-to-use, worry-free and literally puts the world at

your fingertips. From the moment you open the box, you'll realize how different the WOW Computer is. The components are all connected; all you do is plug it into an outlet and your high-speed Internet connection. Then you'll see the screen – it's now 22 inches. This is a completely new touch screen system, without the cluttered look of the normal computer screen. The "buttons" on the screen are easy to see and easy to understand. All you do is touch one of them, from the Web, Email, Calendar to Games– you name it... and a new screen opens up. It's so easy to use you won't have to ask your children or grandchildren for help. Until now, the very people who could benefit most from E-mail and the Internet are the ones that have had the hardest time accessing it. Now, thanks to the WOW Computer, countless older Americans are discovering the wonderful world of the Internet every day. Isn't it time

you took part? Call now, and you'll find out why tens of thousands of satisfied seniors are now enjoying their WOW Computers, emailing their grandchildren, and experiencing everything the Internet has to offer. Call today!

- Send & Receive Emails
- Have video chats with family and friends
- Surf the Internet:  
Get current weather and news
- Play games Online:  
Hundreds to choose from!

**Call now toll free and find out how you can get the new WOW! Computer.**

*Mention promotional code 110254 for special introductory pricing.*

**1-888-606-6392**







*Artist Matt Hall signs a centennial lithograph for Rodney Smith of South Dakota during the 100th National Convention in Minneapolis. Photo by Schelly Stone*

# ARTIST CONNECTS LEGACY & VISION

*The style of former video game art director Matt Hall matches the message of the Legion's 100th anniversary.*

Matt Hall of Dripping Springs, Texas, was trained as a traditional painter – oils, watercolors, acrylics – and inspired by Frederic Remington, Norman Rockwell and N.C. Wyeth, the latter two of whom were past illustrators for *The American Legion Magazine*.

His talent took him from greeting cards and children's television to Hollywood movie sets and the massively successful video game "Medal of Honor," shifting to the emerging world of digital art. He has produced no fewer than six illustrations for *The American Legion Magazine* and was chosen as the artist of two new works that hang in the National Executive Committee room of American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis. Signed lithographs of his American Legion centennial image, titled "Legacy & Vision," are available now through Emblem Sales.

As he was conducting research for his 2018 American Legion art pieces, he spoke with *The American Legion Magazine*.

## **How did you become a military artist?**

It didn't start that way. I was in the entertainment industry and was working for DreamWorks in California. While there, Steven Spielberg came up with an idea to launch a video game project called "Medal of Honor." The name was a sticking point with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. There was a debate over whether we could use the name or not. We worked out a deal with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society to maintain their website for them – and to actually depict some of the stories from the citations. I volunteered to do the paintings.

## **What kinds of paintings are these?**

These are digital paintings, all painted on a digital tablet. We had to turn these around sometimes in a week, and we had to be very fast-paced in how we maintained that website, and I was doing

production on other projects too. What I try to do is maintain a traditional look, when I'm working even in a digital format. I'm trying to create an oiled look, even if it's not for canvas.

## **How do you determine the scene you want to create?**

First and foremost, I consider myself an illustrator. It really begins with the written word, whether the story of someone's act of valor or a script or an article. I will read it and pick out a moment that illustrates or tells that story.

## **Where did your interest in military art come from?**

My father served in the Army, in the artillery. He raised me to respect and have a love and passion for men and women in the service, particularly because he came out of the Vietnam era. I remember seeing how a lot of those veterans were treated, and he lectured

me about how this should never happen again: "You should always honor a veteran. No matter what you think about the politics. They deserve better." I think that gave me a sense of respect for the military, and was reinforced through the process of working with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

Then, my wife's family has a history in the military. Her father was a Green Beret. Her grandfather was a B-17 pilot. So I think it's a culmination of a lot of people who influenced me.

I love history. Because I love history, I love telling stories. And that requires a lot of research. If you get one little detail wrong, a veteran knows. They know that equipment inside and out. It's worth that extra effort to research.

## **What does it mean to you to produce artwork for *The American Legion*?**

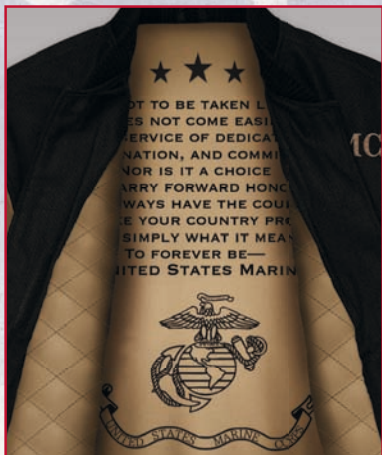
For me, it's an honor to serve The American Legion through my art. I grew up looking at pieces that were commissioned by *The American Legion Magazine*. N.C. Wyeth has done several pieces. I remember looking at those – even as a young man – and thinking, 'Oh my gosh ... that work is fantastic.' I don't feel like I am in that caliber, but I am honored to be one of the artists who has served The American Legion over the past 100 years.

– Jeff Stoffer

**GET A CENTENNIAL  
LITHOGRAPH**

Order online at Emblem Sales: Search "Centennial Print" at [emblem.legion.org](http://emblem.legion.org)  
Call Emblem Sales: (888) 453-4466

# CELEBRATE TRADITION WITH THE USMC Semper Fi Men's Varsity Twill Jacket



## Custom Printed Lining Featuring Poignant Marine Sentiment:

*It is not to be taken lightly  
It does not come easily—  
This service of dedication,  
determination, and commitment.  
Nor is it a choice  
to carry forward honor,  
And always have the courage  
to make your country proud.  
It is simply what it means  
To forever be—  
A United States Marine*



★ **Vintage Varsity-style Jacket in  
Comfortable Twill Accented  
with Faux Suede Trim**

★ **Appliqué Patch of the Historic  
“Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima” with the  
USMC Emblem and Embroidered Stars**

## To Forever Be... a United States Marine

Combining the classic good looks of a vintage-style varsity jacket with a bold salute to the pride and tradition of the Marines, our “USMC Semper Fi” Men's Varsity Twill Jacket is an exclusive design that's sure to stand out... and it's only available from The Bradford Exchange.

Hand-crafted in black twill, the front-zip jacket is accented with contrasting tan faux suede trim on the sleeves and pockets. A dramatic image of the historic “Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima” commands attention on the back as an appliqué patch along with the USMC emblem, embroidered stars and the motto “Semper Fidelis.” Plus, USMC is expertly embroidered on the front. Open the coat up, and an exclusive Marine sentiment is revealed on the quality lining. The roomy fit includes two front hip pockets, an inside slip pocket, knit cuffs, collar and hem.

Made in Mexico

What a striking way to show your love for The Few. The Proud. The Marines.

### Dependable and Affordable: Satisfaction Guaranteed

With its custom design and hand-crafted quality, the “USMC Semper Fi” Men's Varsity Twill Jacket is a remarkable value at \$189.95\*, and you can pay in four easy installments of \$47.49. To order yours in sizes M-XXXL, backed by our unconditional 30-day guarantee, send no money now; just fill out and send in your Priority Reservation today!

**[bradfordexchange.com/USMCvarsitytwill](http://bradfordexchange.com/USMCvarsitytwill)**

\*For information on sales tax you may owe to your state, go to [bradfordexchange.com/use-tax](http://bradfordexchange.com/use-tax).

©Officially Licensed Product of the United States Marine Corps  
©2018 The Bradford Exchange 01-28109-001-BIBR

**PRIORITY RESERVATION**

**SEND NO MONEY NOW**

THE  
**BRADFORD EXCHANGE**  
—APPAREL & ACCESSORIES—

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

**YES.** Please reserve the “USMC Semper Fi” Men's Varsity Twill Jacket for me as described in this announcement. I've indicated my size preference below.

Please  
Respond  
Promptly

- ☐ M (38-40) 01-28109-011    ☐ XXL (50-52) 01-28109-014  
☐ L (42-44) 01-28109-012    ☐ XXXL (54-56) 01-28109-015  
☐ XL (46-48) 01-28109-013

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Mr. Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Plus a total of \$19.99 shipping and service (see [bradfordexchange.com](http://bradfordexchange.com)).  
Please allow 2-4 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to  
product availability and order acceptance.

**E94901**



## HISTORY

# Christmas Eve at the front

*In 1943, a special radio broadcast united Americans with their loved ones deployed around the world.*

BY DON KEITH

The night before Christmas 1943, millions of Americans sat before their radios, the dial lamps offering a bit of cheer, awaiting a show scheduled to begin at the top of the hour. It was one of those rare media events, usually reserved for President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "fireside chats." But on that one winter night, all four major U.S. radio networks – CBS, NBC Red, NBC Blue and Mutual – devoted their airwaves to a single program featuring several amateur singers and musicians, along with jokes and sketches.

That radio broadcast, "Christmas Eve at the Front," gave U.S. audiences a real-time glimpse of soldiers and sailors deployed around the globe that holiday season, and to give those servicemembers the opportunity to speak to the folks back home via the fastest-growing mass medium of the day.

Technicians had worked for months to pull off a feat thought impossible only a few years before: bringing live voices from various spots around the world to a single point and rebroadcast to eager listeners at home. The first trans-Atlantic telephone cable was still a decade away. Communications satellites were the stuff of science fiction. This big show depended on relatively new technology and the vagaries of shortwave signal propagation.

It was actually the idea of the U.S. military, which believed a real-time broadcast would be a tremendous morale boost not only for the fighting forces but also for their families back home. And when it came time to select the program's primary host, the choice was obvious.

At the time, Bob Hope's network radio show commanded huge audiences each week. He had started his showbiz career on the vaudeville stage, and by 1934 was already working in radio and the movies. His first major film was "The Big Broadcast of 1938," in which he introduced the song "Thanks for the Memory." It became his theme, closing hundreds of Hope's USO shows between 1941 and 1991.

However, the first voice heard in the "Christmas Eve at the Front" broadcast is not Hope, but actor Lionel Barrymore, whose portrayal of Ebenezer Scrooge in the annual radio production of "A Christmas Carol" made it appropriate that he be a part of the show. He promises to take listeners "by the hand to the side of your loved ones fighting at every quarter of the globe" – including Italy, North Africa, New Guinea, Guadalcanal, New Caledonia, China ("where it's already Christmas"), India, Panama, Alaska, Pearl Harbor and even "some of the ships of our Navy."



Getty

Barrymore then introduces Hope, "whose name is synonymous with joy to the GI." When greeted with loud applause, Hope quips, "Thanks, relatives!" After a few zingers, the most challenging part of the production begins.

The first stop is Algiers in North Africa. The signal fades a bit at times, but an unidentified voice tells us it is just after 3 a.m. as he reads from a prepared script. He informs listeners that this will for the most part be a typical day for the men working there. A soldier from Sheffield, Ala., comes on mic and, in a deep Southern accent, talks about how he and his fellow troops spent Christmas Eve so far from home.

It is difficult for us today – accustomed as we are to high-definition live communications from anywhere on the planet – to imagine how impressive this short, wavering presentation was to millions sitting in living rooms around the country. Indeed, most had recently heard Edward R. Murrow as he dramatically described the Nazi bombing of London live, as it happened, using a shortwave transmitter. But the voice the audience was hearing this night was that of a soldier, a regular guy, whose distant transmission wraps with, "We return you to America." There may well have been some wishful thinking in those five simple words.

Bing Crosby, Hope's usual foil and movie partner, joins the broadcast then, along with the Army Air Force Orchestra, with a quick chorus of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen."

Except for atmospheric noise and some fading, most of the remote shortwave transmissions were surprisingly listenable. Others were difficult to understand. Some transmission paths did not work at all. Hope, Crosby and crew handled it smoothly, ad-libbing, until they could verify there would be no bit from that "quarter of the globe."

Despite expected technical hitches, this historic broadcast almost certainly accomplished its goal. Families felt a bit closer to their loved ones – more than 3.5 million Americans were deployed overseas at the time of the show – on this special night of the year.

"Christmas Eve at the Front" can be heard today in its entirety – blemishes and all – online, including on YouTube and the Old Time Radio Downloads site.

Don Keith is a best-selling author and award-winning broadcast journalist. [donkeith.com](http://donkeith.com)

Read an extended version online: [legion.org/magazine](http://legion.org/magazine)

# What Adult Diaper Companies Don't Want Men To Know...

*Men's Liberty keeps you dry and leak free for up to 24 hours.*

## The Diaper Dilemma

Urinary incontinence affects more than 5 million men in the United States of all ages. Diapers trap moisture, causing UTIs, discomfort and odors.

## Men's Liberty Alternative

Finally there is an alternative solution for men that dependably replaces diapers, pads and condom catheters. Men's Liberty is a non-invasive external catheter option that is more comfortable and sanitary than adult diapers, easy to apply, discreet and keeps you dry 24/7. Whether you just dribble a bit or suffer from complete incontinence, Men's Liberty could be the discreet, dignified, and dependable solution for you!

**Call Today and Receive a  
FREE Weeks Supply with  
Your First Order!\***

**1-833-501-7581**

Promo Code: AML1218



\*30 days supply or more



“I can keep doing what I want to do, without having to worry about running to the bathroom or changing my clothes. It's a Godsend.”

— John in Michigan



## Covered by Medicare and Most Insurance Plans!

Millions of men spend thousands of dollars each year on diapers, which are not covered by Medicare. Diapers and pads can cost as much as \$300 out of pocket each month. Men's Liberty is covered by Medicare, VA/Tricare and over 3,000 insurance plans. Standard deductibles and co-pays apply.

Get your insurance card and call Men's Liberty today to get started. We handle all paperwork, claims and billing to your insurance or medicare provider.



**Men's Liberty**  
[www.LiveMensLiberty.com](http://www.LiveMensLiberty.com)





Photo by Lucas Carter

## FALL MEETINGS

## Team 100 off and running

American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad opened the National Executive Committee's Fall Meetings Oct. 12-15 in Indianapolis by encouraging members to spread the word about his "Team 100" centennial theme.

"Whether you are a longtime member or brand new, everybody has had a part in our century of success, and we all have a stake in the future of this organization," he said.

Reistad called on posts to gather their American Legion Family and post videos on social media identifying their posts and yelling, "We are Team 100!" When posting videos, tag Brett Reistad and use the hashtag **#team100**.

"Branding and awareness are important, and a part of our strategic membership plan," Reistad said. "I know I'll be seeing plenty of Team 100 challenges all over social media."

While nearly 5,400 Legion posts chartered in 1919 are still active today, Reistad is encouraging departments to help charter new posts, which will be designated as 2019 centennial posts. He recognized the Department of Alabama for chartering the first of these posts.

Speaking ahead of Veterans Day and the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, Reistad reminded Legionnaires that "we must not forget this is still a time of war." He identified Spc. James A. Slape, 23, of Morehead City, N.C., as the latest casualty in the ongoing war on terrorism. Slape was killed in Afghanistan by an IED Oct. 4.

"This is why we exist: to advocate for heroes like Spc. Slape and the grieving families they leave behind," Reistad said. "We exist not just to support families of the fallen, but Blue Star Families and our American Legion Family, as well."

During the NEC's final session before The American Legion turns 100 in March, Reistad added, "If we wish to finally turn a corner on membership, now is the time to do it. You do this not by relying on membership notices and direct mail. You get people to (join) and renew because you are directly engaging them. By working together, valuing each other, regardless of war era, service branch or background ... we are a stronger American Legion."

## Expanded membership eligibility, other resolutions

The Legion's National Executive Committee passed 25 resolutions during the Fall Meetings, including:

■ **Resolution 1**, "Unrecognized Armed Hostilities Recognition," which calls on Congress to declare that the United States has been continuously engaged in a state of war from Dec. 7, 1941, to the present, and for Congress to direct VA to qualify as a wartime veteran any servicemember who served honorably under Title 10 for at least one day from Dec. 7, 1941, to the present.

■ **Resolution 2**, which would change The American Legion's membership dates, but only once the actions of Resolution 1 are approved by Congress. Once approved, American Legion membership will comprise the following war periods: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941, to the date of cessation of armed hostilities as determined by the U.S. government.

■ **Resolution 3**, which kicks off the American Legion Endowment Fund's \$25 million fundraising drive, doing business as the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. All contributions go directly to the Temporary Financial Assistance program and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation efforts, primarily training for American Legion service officers who help veterans and families understand their health-care and education benefits. Make tax-deductible contributions online at [legion.org/donate](http://legion.org/donate).

The full text of all American Legion resolutions is online:

🌐 [archive.legion.org](http://archive.legion.org)



National Commander Brett Reistad accepts a \$500,000 check for the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. Photo by Lucas Carter

**\$24,000** Donations to The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors program during the meetings, including more than \$22,000 from the Department of Indiana

**\$766,761** Amount in 2019 grants from the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, to 24 nonprofits nationwide

# ADVANCED HEARING AID TECHNOLOGY

## For Less Than \$200

*"I have been amazed... by the quality of the sound and the improvement in my life."*

— Wayne S., Sharon, CT

**How can a hearing aid that costs less than \$200** be every bit as good as one that sells for \$2,250 or more?

**The answer:** Although tremendous strides have been made in Advanced Hearing Aid Technology, those cost reductions have not been passed on to you. Until now...

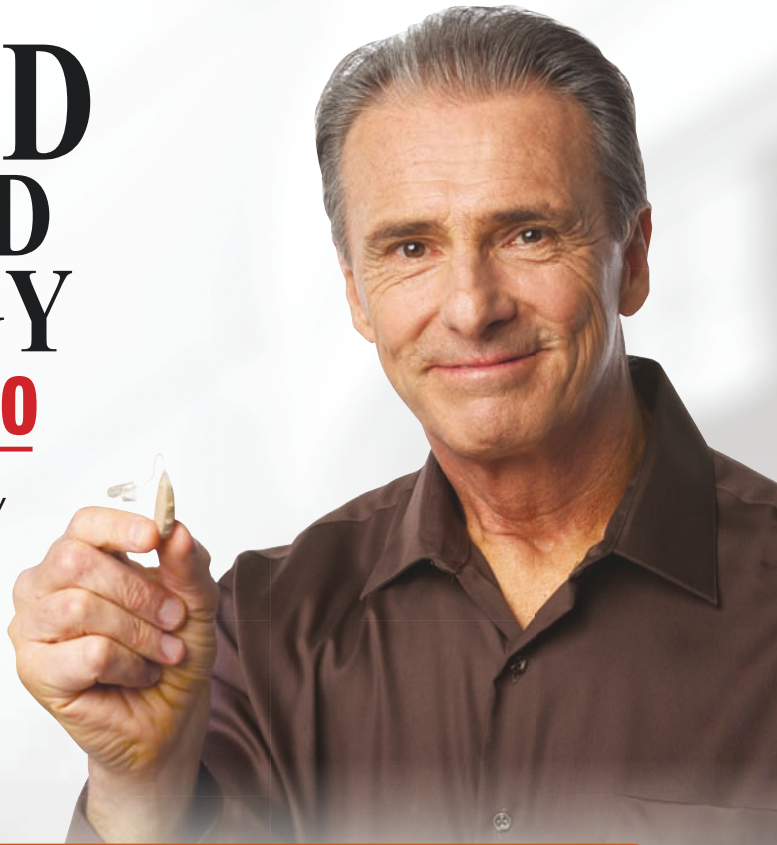
**MDHearingAid®** uses the same kind of Advanced Hearing Aid Technology incorporated into hearing aids that cost thousands more at a small fraction of the price.

Over 300,000 satisfied **MDHearingAid** customers agree: High-quality, FDA-registered hearing aids don't have to cost a fortune. The fact is, you don't need to spend thousands for a hearing aid. **MDHearingAid** is a medical-grade hearing aid offering sophistication and high performance, and works right out of the box with no time-consuming "adjustment" appointments. You can contact a licensed hearing specialist conveniently online or by phone — even after your purchase at no cost. No other company provides such extensive support. Now that you know...why pay more?

**MDHearingAid®** >>>

DOCTOR DESIGNED | AUDIOLOGIST TESTED | FDA REGISTERED

Not available in the state of Washington.



### Can a Hearing Aid Delay or Prevent Alzheimer's and Dementia?

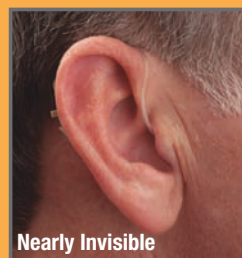
A study by the National Institute on Aging suggests older individuals with hearing loss are significantly more likely to develop Alzheimer's and dementia over time than those who retain their hearing. They suggest that an intervention — such as a hearing aid — could delay or prevent this by improving hearing!

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR 45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!

Hearing is believing and we invite you to try this nearly invisible hearing aid with no annoying whistling or background noise for yourself. If you are not completely satisfied with your MDHearingAid, return it within 45 days for a **FULL REFUND**.

For the Lowest Price Call  
**1-800-741-0424**

[www.GetMDHearingAid200.com](http://www.GetMDHearingAid200.com)



Nearly Invisible

**BUY A PAIR  
AND SAVE.**

**BATTERIES  
INCLUDED!**  
READY TO USE RIGHT  
OUT OF THE BOX!

Use Code **JB77**  
and get **FREE** Batteries for 1 Year  
**Plus FREE** Shipping

Proudly assembled in America!





## SCHOLARSHIPS

## Moving on, with help from The American Legion

As a high school senior, Kenneth Wilder was thrilled to be accepted to the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va. The cost of higher education, however, was daunting.

"When I got the news that I received the American Legion Legacy Scholarship, I was more than ecstatic," said Kenneth, a junior ROTC student and two-time scholarship recipient. "Knowing who donated to the scholarship for kids like my sister and me to go off to college is awesome."

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship is awarded to students like Kenneth and his sister, Mariah. Children of post-9/11 servicemembers killed on active duty are eligible. So are children of post-9/11 servicemembers who have a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater. The 2019-2020 application period opened Nov. 15.

Kenneth is studying government with a minor in Arabic at William & Mary. Mariah, a freshman at Virginia Wesleyan College in Virginia Beach, is studying psychology.

"We're the select few in tragedy, but we're also the select few in blessing," says Kenneth, who wants to pursue a law degree after getting his bachelor's. "Even though my father is no longer with us, he hasn't been forgotten. By donors honoring both his legacy and our cherished memories ... It brings a lot of joy to us."



*Thanks in part to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, siblings Kenneth and Mariah Wilder can pursue higher education.* Photo by Schelly Stone

Kenneth Jerome Jones, who served in the Army National Guard, was struck and killed by another driver while changing a tire on the side of the road on Oct. 26, 2003. He'd been home barely a month from a deployment to Iraq.

Mariah was 6 at the time. Their mother, Grace, was pregnant with Samuel, now a high school freshman.

"I remember the nights when my mom was crying and crying," Kenneth says. "You could feel the void."

Mariah says she appreciates those who contribute to the Legacy scholarship: "These people really care."

— Henry Howard

See a video about the Wilders: [legion.org/legiontv](https://legion.org/legiontv)

Learn more about the Legacy Scholarship:

[legion.org/scholarships](https://legion.org/scholarships)

# AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE STAIRLIFT.

**AN ACORN STAIRLIFT IS THE  
PERFECT SOLUTION FOR:**

- ✓ Arthritis/COPD sufferers
- ✓ Those with mobility issues
- ✓ Anyone who hurts using the stairs



## SPECIAL MILITARY OFFER

**CALL TODAY TO  
SAVE \$250\***

Plus receive your **FREE** stairlift  
buying guide, info kit & DVD!

**DON'T WAIT, CALL TODAY!**



**1-866-744-2344**

\*Not valid on previous purchases. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Not valid on refurbished models. Only valid towards purchase of a NEW Acorn Stairlift directly from the manufacturer. \$250 discount will be applied to new orders. Please mention this ad when calling. AZ ROC 278722, CA 942619, MN LC670698, OK 50110, OR CCB 198506, RI 88, WA ACORNSI8940B, WV WV049654, MA HIC169936, NJ 13VH07752300, PA PA101967, CT ELV 0425003-R5, AK 134057.



John S. Victory, Sr. US Army, Retired



For a limited time...

# SAVE OVER 85% on America's World War II Silver Nickels!

Now you can **SAVE OVER 85%** on this complete set of silver World War II nickels – the only U.S. nickels ever struck in silver to preserve metal for the war effort. Included is one silver nickel from each mint that issued them from 1942 to 1945 – 11 coins in all for **only \$9.95** (regularly ~~\$97.95~~)! Act now and you'll get FREE shipping, plus a complete set of 1943 Wartime Steel cents when you order by deadline – absolutely **FREE!**

You'll also receive our fully illustrated catalog, plus other fascinating selections from our Free Examination Coins-on-Approval Service, from which you may purchase any or none of the coins – return balance in 15 days – with option to cancel at any time. *Don't miss out on this limited-time offer* – order your complete WWII silver nickel set today!

**Mail coupon or order online today  
at [www.LittletonCoin.com/specials](http://www.LittletonCoin.com/specials)**



## Hurry! Yours FREE!

Get this complete set of 1943 Wartime reprocessed Steel Cents – one from each mint – Philadelphia, Denver & San Francisco **FREE** when you order by deadline.



©2018 LCC, Inc.

**45-Day Money Back Guarantee of Satisfaction**

### Special Offer for NEW Customers Only

☒ **YES!** Please send me the Complete Set of WWII Silver Nickels for the special price of \$9.95 – regularly ~~\$97.95~~, plus Free Shipping (limit 4 sets). Also send my **FREE** Wartime Steel Cent Set (one set per customer, please).

**Method of payment:** ☐ Check payable to Littleton Coin Co.

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

**ORDER DEADLINE:**  
12:00 Midnight,  
December 31, 2018

How Many (limit 4 sets): \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost at \$9.95 per set: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Add Custom 1938-1961 Jefferson Nickel

Vol. 1 Display Folders & **SAVE 28%**

at \$2.50 each (reg. ~~\$3.49~~): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping & Handling: \$ **FREE!**

Sales tax\*: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**SPECIAL SAVINGS!**



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Please print clearly

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt# \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

*\*We are required by law to collect sales tax on orders received after January 1, 2019 for the following states. Total Amount is taxable: HI, KY, MD, MA, ME, MN, MS, NJ, OH, OK, TN, VT, WI. Folders only (not coins) taxable in: CT, GA, IL, IN, IA, MI, ND, NE, PA, RI, SC, SD, UT, WA, CO, LA, WY, NC*

Please send coupon to:



**Littleton**  
Coin Company®

**Dept. 5CA400**  
1309 Mt. Eustis Road  
Littleton NH 03561-3737



# NEW HEIGHTS

*After retiring from leading the South Carolina State Guard, Tom Mullikin is ready for global challenges.*

BY W. THOMAS SMITH JR.

Tom Mullikin is a veteran Army officer and Legionnaire who equates military service to the second greatest commandment, “to love your neighbor as yourself.”

That’s how he’s approached his command of the South Carolina State Guard (SCSG), a post from which he retires this month. It also guides his work as a practicing energy and environmental attorney, university professor and global expedition leader.

“Approaching everything we do in the spirit of serving others is the only real formula for any tangible success at anything,” says Mullikin, a member of American Legion Post 172 in Columbia, S.C. “It’s like when you climb a mountain – if it’s a truly challenging summit, you simply cannot do it by yourself. Your life depends on others, on keeping them fit, alive, focused and, if possible, happy. And they have to do the same for you.”

A National Geographic expert and Explorers Club fellow, Mullikin has summited peaks around the world, including four of the seven greatest: Mount Elbrus (the highest mountain in Europe), Mount Kilimanjaro (the highest in Africa), Mount Kosciuszko (the highest on the Australian mainland) and South America’s Mount Aconcagua (the highest in the Western and Southern hemispheres).

He hopes to tackle the remaining three – Mount Denali (formerly McKinley, the highest in North America), Mount Vinson (the highest in Antarctica) and, finally, the 29,029-foot Mount Everest in Asia – in his quest to climb all seven summits and scuba-dive in all five oceans.

He has already logged the dives, including ice dives in the Arctic and Antarctic, and he’s a certified polar diver.

Again, though, it’s about teamwork.

“You are never truly successful if you cross the goal line alone,” Mullikin says. “The greatness of any leader or achiever is measured by the numbers of people they lead into the end zone with them.”

It’s a simple-sounding philosophy that has guided Mullikin in leading the SCSG since he took over in 2014, and one that he credits in taking the organization from “good to great to elite.”



*In 2016, Tom Mullikin led a National Geographic expedition to Alaska, from Denali to Prince William Sound. Photo courtesy Tom Mullikin*

When Mullikin became commander, the historic guard was struggling with relevancy. Not to be confused with the state’s Army National Guard or Air National Guard (both of which also fall under the umbrella of the South Carolina Military Department), the SCSG is an all-volunteer military organization tasked with statewide missions. It often augments the National Guard and other SCMD elements in state disaster-relief services and related operations.

“We had some really good people who were ready, willing and able to take us to the next level,” Mullikin says. “I tried to make them feel better about who they were by encouraging them to a higher standard and pointing them back to the greatness of their 17th-century militia forebears.”

Recent years have brought newfound recognition of the SCSG as having developed one of the finest search-and-rescue capabilities in the nation. Another key to success has been a surge in recruiting, as well as the retention of professionals – military veterans, law-enforcement officers, physicians, attorneys, engineers, chaplains, business leaders, professors, even professional musicians – who have committed themselves to serve their state without pay.

In federal service, Mullikin was a Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps officer with the Army Reserve’s 12th Legal Support Organization, where he served as a trial counsel. He then served as international legal officer for the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne).

Mullikin speaks at American Legion posts about various topics, as well as civic clubs, community organizations, and college and high school ROTC programs about the Legion. He’s also a strong supporter of American Legion Baseball.

“At the end of the day,” he says, “any worthwhile effort may be summed up in the simple military maxim: mission first, then the men (and today women), lastly me.”

*W. Thomas Smith Jr., a former Marine Corps infantry leader and counterterrorism instructor, is a member of American Legion Post 172 in Columbia, S.C.*

Read an extended version online: [legion.org/magazine](https://legion.org/magazine)



*Meet the future  
of personal  
transportation.*



**It's not a Wheelchair...**

**It's not a Power Chair...**



The Zinger folds to a mere 10 inches.

**It's a Zinger!**

More and more Americans are reaching the age where mobility is an everyday concern. Whether from an injury or from the aches and pains that come from getting older—getting around isn't as easy as it used to be. You may have tried a power chair or a scooter. The **Zinger** is NOT a power chair or a scooter! The **Zinger** is quick and nimble, yet it is not prone to tipping like many scooters. Best of all, it weighs only 47.2 pounds and folds and unfolds with ease. You can take it almost anywhere, providing you with independence and freedom.

Years of work by innovative engineers have resulted in a mobility device that's truly unique. They created a battery that provides powerful energy at a fraction of the weight of most batteries. The **Zinger** features two steering levers, one on either side of the seat. The user pushes both levers down to go forward, pulls them both up to brake, and pushes one while pulling the other to turn to either side. This enables great mobility, the ability to turn on a dime and to pull

right up to tables or desks. The controls are right on the steering lever so it's simple to operate and its exclusive footrest swings out of the way when you stand up or sit down. With its rugged yet lightweight aluminum frame, the **Zinger** is sturdy and durable yet convenient and comfortable! What's more, it easily folds up for storage in a car seat or trunk— you can even gate-check it at the airport like a stroller. Think about it, you can take your **Zinger** almost anywhere, so you don't have to let mobility issues rule your life. It folds in seconds without tools and is safe and reliable. It holds up to 265 pounds, and it goes up to 6 mph and operates for up to 8 hours on a single charge.

Why spend another day letting mobility issues hamper your independence and quality of life?

**Zinger Chair®**

Call now toll free

**1-888-796-0661**

Please mention code 110253 when ordering.

*Just think of the places you can go:* • Shopping • Air Travel • Bus Tours

• Restaurants— ride right up to the table! • Around town or just around your house

Not intended for use by individuals restricted to a sitting position and not covered by Medicare or Medicaid. Zinger is not a medical device.

© 2018 firstSTREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc.





# HONOR HIS PAST. SECURE HER FUTURE.

Including The American Legion in your estate plans is one of the simplest ways to make a lasting impact on the lives of both veterans and future generations.



**For more information: [plannedgiving@legion.org](mailto:plannedgiving@legion.org)  
317.630.1229 | [legion.org/plannedgiving](https://legion.org/plannedgiving)**

EIN 90-101797 | Legal Name: American Legion Charities, Inc.  
700 N. Pennsylvania St., P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206



## CAREERS



## What's your personal brand?

One of the latest trends in writing résumés, LinkedIn profiles, cover letters and other career communications is personal branding. This is a process whereby you create a personal branding statement that showcases your

unique selling proposition (USP).

Think of your branding statement as the overriding theme of your résumé – the theme that pulls all your experience together under one umbrella and clearly communicates, “This is who I am and this is the value I bring to your organization.”

To create your own personal brand, follow these steps:

- Define your career objective.
- Identify your top three to five skills, qualifications and achievements that support your objective.
- Clarify your success traits as they relate to your objective.
- Combine the highlights of that information to write your personal branding statement – a single sentence, phrase or tagline that communicates your unique value.

Branding statements can be presented in a number of different formats and structures. Here are a few examples to help you formulate your own:

### LOGISTICS MANAGER

Optimizing advanced technology to enhance productivity, efficiency and quality

### ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING PROFESSIONAL

Designing best-in-class product engineering solutions for aerospace, defense and commercial markets

### TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL

Developing Curriculum & Instructional Materials for Classroom, Online & Video Training

### FIELD OPERATIONS MANAGER

Champion of People, Projects & Resources who Consistently Exceeds Performance & Financial Objectives

In today's world of online job-searching, LinkedIn is a must for every job seeker. Therefore, you must transition your personal brand statement from your résumé to your LinkedIn profile, where there is a 120-character limit. This may require you to edit your brand statement to fit into the allocated space.

It is essential that your résumé and your profile “match” closely so that there is consistency around your brand on all of your communications. In fact, you can even include it in your cover letters, email signature block and any other documents. Let your personal brand lead the way throughout your job search.

Wendy Enelow is co-author of “Modernize Your Résumé: Get Noticed ... Get Hired” and “Expert Résumés for Military-to-Civilian Transitions.”



Cheryl Walker, 19th District commander, left, and LeQuita Christmon of Auxiliary Unit 559 honor Sgt. William Frank Earnest of the 370th Regiment. Photo by Diane Nesbitt

## CENTENNIAL

## Post 559, Champaign, Ill.

In September, William Frank Earnest American Legion Post 559 conducted a memorial service marking the 100th anniversary of the death of its namesake.

Sgt. Earnest served with the 370th Infantry Regiment, 93rd Infantry Division. He was killed in combat in the Argonne on Sept. 17, 1918, the first African-American from Champaign County to die in World War I. The chaplain of the 370th called Earnest “one of the most excellent, exemplary soldiers that I have known in my twenty and four years’ service. His body, poor, bleeding, torn and mutilated, was buried in No-Man’s Land by his comrades.” His remains were later moved to the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery in France.

Post 559 was founded by Earnest’s older brother, Robert, and other veterans, and chartered in 1932.

### SHARE YOUR POST’S LEGACY

Upload stories, photos and videos of your post’s history.

[www.legion.org/centennial](http://www.legion.org/centennial)

## MEMBERSHIP

## NEW POSTS

**Greenwood Memorial Post 586, Greenwood, Ind.**  
Chartered Sept. 27 (11 members)

**Freedom Post 911, Tulsa, Okla.** Chartered Sept. 26 (15 members)

**Hammond Veterans Memorial Post 5, Hammond, La.** Chartered Sept. 18 (15 members)

**Post 111, Eagle Mountain, Utah** Chartered Sept. 17 (11 members)

**Scenic City Heroes Post 291, Chattanooga, Tenn.**  
Chartered Aug. 16 (15 members)

**Post 210, New Haven, Conn.** Chartered July 25 (15 members)

**Southwest Post 332, Halethorpe, Md.** Chartered July 25 (15 members)

**Tate Lawrence Post 81, Melbourne, Ark.** Chartered July 31 (15 members)

# LIVE LIFE WITHOUT PAIN

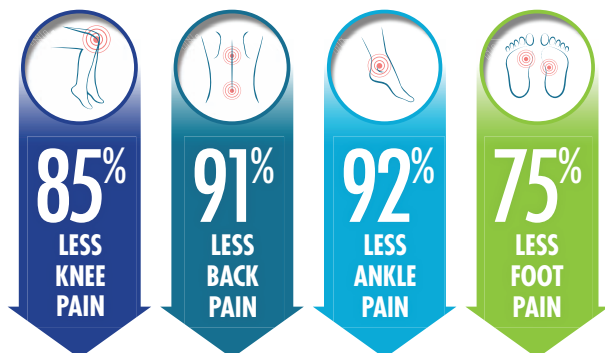
Plantar Fasciitis • Arthritis • Joint Pain • Heel Spurs • Back & Knee Pain



**PATENTED VERSOSHOCK® SOLE**  
SHOCK ABSORPTION SYSTEM

*“I’ve had lower back pain for years. Walking in these shoes was life changing for me. I feel like I’m walking on air.”*

– Bill F.



\*Results of a double-blind study conducted by Olive View UCLA Medical Center.

**Enjoy the benefits of exercise**  
*with proven pain relief.*

- ✓ Ultimate Comfort
- ✓ Renewed Energy
- ✓ Maximum Protection
- ✓ Improve Posture

## G-DEFY ION \$150

X-WIDE  
WIDTH  
AVAILABLE

**Men Sizes** 7.5-15 M/W/XW

- Black TB9025MBB
- Red/Gray TB9022MRG

**Women Sizes** 6-11 M/W/XW

- Black/Blue TB9022FTL
- Gray/Teal TB9022FGU



**\$30 OFF**  
**YOUR ORDER**

**Promo Code MG4MKJ4**

**www.gravitydefyer.com**

Expires March 31, 2019

**Free Exchanges • Free Returns**  
**100% Satisfaction Guaranteed**

Call 1(800) 429-0039

Gravity Defyer Corp.

10643 Glenoaks Blvd. Pacoima, CA 91331



VersoShock® U.S. Patent #US8,555,526 B2. This product has not been evaluated by the FDA. Not intended to treat, cure or prevent any disease. \$30 off applies to orders of \$100 or more for this limited time offer. 9% CA sales tax applies to orders in California. Shoes must be returned within 30 days in like-new condition for full refund or exchange. Credit card authorization required. See website for complete details.



## HONOR &amp; REMEMBRANCE

# Group eyes site for GWOT memorial

For years, the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation has been pushing to build a memorial in Washington, D.C., honoring those who served in the nation's longest war – particularly those who made the supreme sacrifice.

In 2017, the same year that Congress officially authorized the foundation's efforts, The American Legion's National Executive Committee passed Resolution 16 supporting the memorial's construction.

Heading the GWOT Memorial Foundation is Michael "Rod" Rodriguez, president and CEO. He spent 21 years in the Army, including the Green Berets. Rodriguez remembers how enlistment numbers skyrocketed after the 9/11 attacks. "I think everyone was reminded of their patriotism," he says. In the military, he realized his passion was to serve others, leading to his involvement in the foundation.

The GWOT Memorial Foundation has a leadership team, advisory board and set of ambassadors, with President George W. Bush acting as honorary chairman. "We wanted a



diverse group of people who understand and support the mission," Rodriguez says.

The 2017 congressional resolution passed the House in just six months. For war memorials, there is usually a 10-year embargo on construction starting from conflict's end. Given the ongoing nature of the war on terrorism, elected officials waived that requirement.

The foundation is now turning its attention to fundraising, site selection and design. It's eyeing a spot in Area 1, near the White House, the National Mall and other war memorials. As for design, focus groups are being conducted around the country. The goal is to "offer a space inviting to everyone."

Rodriguez envisions the memorial as a popular site for re-enlistment, retirement and other ceremonies, noting that this will not be a 9/11 memorial. "It's about what we did afterwards," he says.

— Laura Edwards

 [gwotmemorialfoundation.org](http://gwotmemorialfoundation.org)

## 2019 PRE-RELEASE THE WORLDS MOST TRUSTED AND PUREST SILVER COINS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

**\$99.00**  
per set

Canadian Maple leaf



American Silver Eagle

Austria Philharmonic



Chinese Silver Panda



Australia Kookaburra



**FREE SHIPPING**



## Paramount Rare Coin & Currency

230 Country Lane Drive - Lumberton, Texas 77657

**1-844-218-7103**



First time customers only. Price are subject to change with metal fluctuations. All rights reserved Paramount RCC, LLC. #AL1218





## PERSONAL FINANCE



## How to talk to your aging parents

### FOCUS ON FINANCES



J.J. MONTANARO

My wife and I have spent the past quarter of a century caring for our kids. We've done our best to equip them with all they need to be happy, successful and productive. It won't be too long – but I hope not too soon! – before they are called into action to look out for us. Like it or not, that's the way it is. Heck, we are experiencing

this shift in roles with our own parents. It may not be fun, or even comfortable, but you need to be ready.

That starts with some frank conversations. If you're not sure where to kick things off, try these six questions to facilitate important discussions with your aging parents.

■ **Have you formalized a "what-if" game plan?** I wrote "what-if," but "when" is a more accurate characterization. Your parents probably have at least an idea of what they would like to see happen if they are incapacitated or pass away, but a mere idea isn't enough. To make things happen according to their wishes, they need to draft or update a suite of legal documents that may include wills, trusts, powers of attorney (both medical and financial) and living wills.

■ **Who is doing what?** Whether they are naming an agent to make decisions, selecting an executor or naming a successor trustee, everyone should be on the same page.

■ **Does your plan need to be dusted off?** Your parents may have answered yes to question 1, but if they drafted their documents decades ago, it could be time for a refresh. Tax laws have changed dramatically, and it could also make sense to re-establish their intent with respect to powers of attorney. A financial institution may be less likely to recognize a

25-year-old power of attorney than one drawn up a couple of years ago. As you take another look at these important documents, be sure all beneficiary arrangements reflect your parents' current wishes and are synchronized with the other means by which their assets will be distributed.

■ **What type of insurance do you have?** I know my mom has a long-term care policy, but only because I sold it to her. Get a firm grasp of your folks' life, long-term care and health insurance policies. A survey of their insurance could identify gaps or unnecessary coverage. It could be that policies purchased decades ago don't make sense now – or that new ones should be considered.

■ **Who do we need to contact?** If your parents already have a letter of instruction documenting their key contacts (attorneys, accountants, etc.) and providers (banks, brokerages, insurance companies, etc.) in a single document or notebook, that's fantastic. If not, ask them to write one. Are there special programs or services they're eligible for? Perhaps they should go through the VA pre-need burial eligibility process. As USAA members, take advantage of services offered through the Survivor Relations team.

■ **How should we handle things when you're gone?** This is an open-ended topic, but ground you can cover might include your parents' desire on a wide range of topics, including preferred burial location, cremation, type of service and obituary details.

*J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner with USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. Submit questions for him online.*

[www.legion.org/usaa/focusonfinances](http://www.legion.org/usaa/focusonfinances)

## BY THE NUMBERS

## A digital world

### 2.2 billion

Estimated number of cellular phones sold in 2018

### \$101.3 billion

Estimated amount spent on video games in 2018

### 4.04 billion

Estimated number of Internet users as of the end of 2018

### 2.133 trillion

Estimated number of Google searches in 2018

Source: worldometers.info

## EDUCATION

## VA reimbursement for testing



**Q:** *I would like to use my GI Bill for the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) for English, math and history. Will I receive a monthly housing allowance when I pass the exams for these courses, and will I be reimbursed for the tests' cost?*

**A:** VA will reimburse all mandatory fees charged for all national tests for college credit – CLEP, SAT, ACT and MCAT – up to \$2,000 per test. There is no limit on the number of tests taken. When you're reimbursed for the

tests, your months of entitlement will be reduced based on the cost. However, you will not receive a monthly housing allowance when you complete the CLEP exams; to receive that allowance, you must be enrolled and attending courses at a college or university.

*Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Apache Junction, Ariz. [askvalerie@legion.org](mailto:askvalerie@legion.org)*

# BREATHE EASIER™.

## Live Better.

Cellular therapy uses your body's natural processes to reduce inflammation and promote healing to help you breathe.



Cellular therapy is a minimally invasive procedure that uses concentrated platelets and cells from your body to target lung disease. These platelets release healing properties that, when combined with your stem cells and mesenchymal cells, may help to heal damaged tissue and reduce inflammation in your lungs.

Here's why many people are choosing Lung Restoration Treatment™ at the Lung Health Institute to treat their chronic inflammatory lung diseases:

- Joint Commission Accredited
- 95% Patient Satisfaction\*
- Board-Certified Physicians
- No Recovery Time
- 85% of Patients Find Improvement^

If you've been diagnosed with a chronic lung disease, there is still hope. Give us a call today. We will schedule your **free consultation** to determine if our Lung Restoration Treatment™ is right for you.

**Call 1-866-755-0320**

for a free consultation or visit  
[theLungHealthInstitute.com](http://theLungHealthInstitute.com).



LUNG HEALTH  
INSTITUTE

### FIND RELIEF FROM:

#### COPD

- Chronic Bronchitis
- Emphysema
- Bronchiectasis

#### Interstitial Lung Disease

- Pulmonary Fibrosis
- Sarcoidosis

And other chronic  
inflammatory  
lung diseases.

**CALL TODAY FOR  
YOUR FREE CONSULTATION**

\* Every patient is given a Patient Satisfaction Survey shortly after treatment. Responses to the 11-question survey are aggregated to determine patient satisfaction with the delivery of treatment.

^ Quality of Life Survey data measured the patient's self-assessed quality of life and measurable quality of improvement at three months.

The treatments, claims, and other information contained in this advertisement have not been evaluated or approved by the FDA. Individuals are encouraged to speak with his or her primary physician for treatment suggestions and conclusive evidence.



Thermal Knee Warmers Make Your Knees Feel  
**20 Years Younger!**

**BUY 1 pair GET 2nd pair FREE**



Snug  
Non-Binding  
Fit



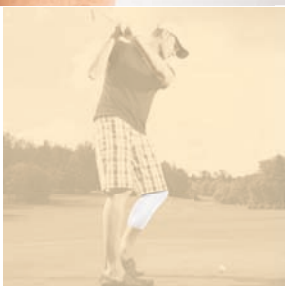
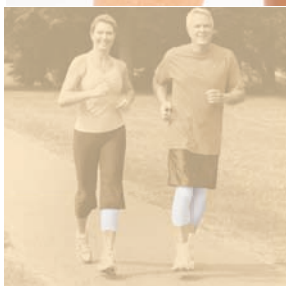
**SOOTHING  
THERAPY**  
For Aching Knees!

Perfect For  
**ARTHRITIS  
SUFFERERS**

Relieve Aching  
Knee Joints with  
Therapeutic Warmth



Dept 77432 © 2018 Dream Products, Inc. (Prices valid for 1yr.)



**SAVE  
OVER  
50%**  
off catalog price

Experience quick pain relief from stiff, achy, arthritic knee joints. Cozy, soft therapeutic knee warmers caress your legs in warmth & comfort at home or away. Gently elasticized for a snug non-binding comfortable fit, perfect under slacks or over hosiery. Import made of soft, washable 100% acrylic knit. One size fits most.

**DreamProducts.com** web offers may vary **OR ORDER NOW TOLL-FREE 1-800-530-2689**

**FREE Surprise Gift With Every Order**

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return For Your Money Back



THERMAL KNEE WARMERS	
Item #96870	
____ Thermal Knee Warmers @ \$7.99 pr.	
Buy 1 Pair, Get 2nd Pair FREE	\$
CA residents must add 7.25% sales tax	\$
Regular Shipping & Handling Add \$4.95 (no matter how many you order!)	\$ 4.95
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>FOR EXPEDITED SHIPPING (optional)</b> Add An Additional \$2.95 (receive your order 5-7 days from shipment)	\$ 2.95
Please Print Clearly	<b>TOTAL \$</b>

<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover@/NOVUS <sup>SM</sup> Cards
Card#	Exp. Date ____/____/____	
Name _____		
Address _____		
City _____	ST _____	Zip _____
Daytime Phone # _____		

Check or money order payable to: **Dream Products, Inc.**  
Send Order To: 412 Dream Lane, Van Nuys, CA 91496

**Dept. 77432**

Email \_\_\_\_\_

COMRADES

### How to submit a reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, fax (317) 630-1280, e-mail reunions@legion.org** or submit information via our website, **www.legion.org/reunions**.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge.

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing only once a year.**

### AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES

**Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Assn**, North Charleston, SC, 4/25-27, John Terino, (703) 239-2704, johnterino@afpaaa.org

### ARMY

**1st Plt D Co 2nd Bn 5th Cav 1st Cav Div**, Mundelein, IL, 3/30-31, John Hodge, (812) 453-7667, jdhodge44@yahoo.com; **70th Eng Bn (Cbt) (Vietnam)**, Branson, MO, 9/12-15, Roger Rock, (775) 623-1029, 70engrs@gmail.com; **88th Trans Co (An Khe, Vietnam)**, La Porte, IN, 3/8-10, Butch Weston, (219) 363-5374, rhonda\_weston@yahoo.com; **95th Evac Hosp (Vietnam, 1968-1973)**, Tucson, AZ, 5/2-5, Terry Caskey, (828) 464-2610, mickthec@hotmail.com; **278th Regimental Cbt Team**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 3/14-17, Jimmy Small, (865) 333-8843, jimmy@mcmminnfarmersmutual.com; **359th Trans Co (Vietnam)**, Oshkosh, WI, 6/11-15, John Porter, (432) 267-1733, crowbar.1@comcast.net; **471st Trans Co (Desert Storm)**, Gatlinburg, TN, 8/8-12, Brian Simms, (580) 713-9864, brian151@hotmail.com; **508th MP Bn**, Branson, MO, 5/2-6, Don Henderson, (765) 654-5288, dhoink@sbcglobal.net; **Army Counter Intelligence Corps Vets**, Yorba Linda, CA, 5/8-11, Stan Solin, (714) 998-1562, stan83@live.com

### COAST GUARD

**Edisto WAGB 284**, New Orleans, 6/10-14, Glenn Smith, (321) 362-5284, glennsmith@att.net

### JOINT

**Pleiku AB - 1st, 6th & 9th Air Commando Sqdns, 362nd Tact Electronics Warfare Sqdn, 21st Tact Air Support Sqdn, 633rd Special Ops Wing, Air America Crews, Army Surgical Hospital (Camps Schmidt & Holloway)**, Dayton, OH, 9/4-8, Ron Chromulak, (412) 515-7247, ron1bev@comcast.net

### NAVY

**Brownson DD 518/868**, Virginia Beach, VA, 5/8-12, Thomas Holcomb, (218) 750-1533, ussbrownson1972@gmail.com; **Edisto AGB 2**, New Orleans, 6/10-14, Glenn Smith, (321) 362-5284, ussedisto@cfl.rr.com; **Lawrence DDG 4 & DD 250**, San Antonio, 5/1-5, Craig Bernat, (814) 322-4150, dguts@usslawrence.com; **Massey DD 778**, Savannah, GA, 5/5-8, Gordon Risk, (248) 650-5138, gordonteri@outlook.com; **Monticello LSD 35**, Branson, MO, 10/16-20, Robert Behm, (573) 207-4670; **Nicholas DD/DDE 449**, Charleston, SC, 10/23-26, Bill Linn, (928) 246-7927, bill.margie@yahoo.com; **NMCB 4**, Branson, MO, 4/25-28, Dean Jaeger, (402) 499-5289, kjaeg@aol.com; **NSA Da Nang, Vietnam**, Albuquerque, NM, 4/22-27, Bernie Uhrinek, (724) 353-9627; **Picking DD 685**, Chicago, 10/1-5, George Brunson, (608) 290-1835,

Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

### Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org).

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. **This does not**

**include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.** Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.**

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.** Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

[thebrunsons@hotmail.com](mailto:thebrunsons@hotmail.com); **Picuda SS 382**, Savannah, GA, 5/13-17, Larry Rose, (970) 379-0734, [subman421@yahoo.com](mailto:subman421@yahoo.com); **San Diego CL 53/AFS 6 & T-AFS 6 & Air Dets LPD 22**, Norfolk, VA, 5/23-25, Walter Cox, (330) 262-7667, [wvcx915@aol.com](mailto:wvcx915@aol.com); **Satyr ARL 23 & LST 603**, Baton Rouge, LA, 5/16-20, Charles Massey, (410) 883-3361, [ctbwonder@verizon.net](mailto:ctbwonder@verizon.net); **Wabash AOR 5**, San Antonio, 5/2-5, Phil Hawkins, (843) 482-1964, [pahjih@outlook.com](mailto:pahjih@outlook.com); **Yosemite AD 19**, Savannah, GA, 5/1-4, William Krug, (352) 419-6620, [w.krugiii@gmail.com](mailto:w.krugiii@gmail.com)

### LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

**Post 219, FL:** Harold K. Witherby

**Post 440, IN:** Warren Hamstra

**Post 113, NC:** Paul G. Frye, Hubert F. Hinson, William S. Martin

### IN SEARCH OF

**3rd Plt B Trp 1/4 Cav 1st Inf Div (Vietnam, 1967-1968)**, James "Straw" Stauffacher, (254) 592-7718, [buckinghammule@yahoo.com](mailto:buckinghammule@yahoo.com)

**420th FA Grp HB, 531st & 532nd FA Bn (Saipan, June 1944)**, David Hirsch, [boffin0356@gmail.com](mailto:boffin0356@gmail.com)

**592nd Sig Co Berlin Cmd (Germany, 1965-1967)**, Jesse Rodriguez, (773) 426-7556, [jesse.rod@comcast.net](mailto:jesse.rod@comcast.net)

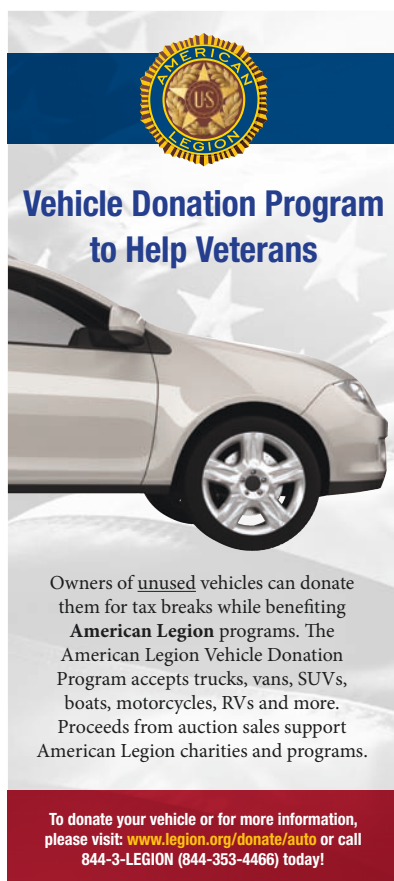
**A Co 3/41 Inf 2nd Armd Div "Rabid Dogs" (Fort Hood, TX & Garlstadt, Germany, 1985-1988)**, Phillip Stock, (251) 504-2928, [rabiddogs2000@yahoo.com](mailto:rabiddogs2000@yahoo.com)

**FLSU 2 (Phu Bai, Vietnam, 1966-1968)**, Larry Stegall, [larry.stegall@hotmail.com](mailto:larry.stegall@hotmail.com)

**L Co Rangers, 75th Inf 101st Abn Div (1984-1985)**, Alfred Lee, (505) 713-0085

### TAPS

**Richard Reed, Dept. of Mississippi.** Dept. Cmdr. 2001-2002, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2000-2001 and Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2002-2009.



**Vehicle Donation Program to Help Veterans**

Owners of unused vehicles can donate them for tax breaks while benefiting American Legion programs. The American Legion Vehicle Donation Program accepts trucks, vans, SUVs, boats, motorcycles, RVs and more. Proceeds from auction sales support American Legion charities and programs.

To donate your vehicle or for more information, please visit: [www.legion.org/donate/auto](http://www.legion.org/donate/auto) or call 844-3-LEGION (844-353-4466) today!

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

- Title of Publication:** THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE
- Publication Number:** 0886-1234
- Date of filing:** September 21, 2018
- Frequency of issue:** Monthly
- No. of issues published annually:** 12
- Annual subscription price:** \$3.00
- Complete mailing address of known office of publication:** 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46216 (Marion County)
- Complete mailing address of headquarters of general business offices of the publisher:** 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
- Names and addresses of publisher, editor and managing editor:**  
**Publisher:** Jeffrey Stoffer, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
**Editor:** Jeffrey Stoffer, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
**Managing Editor:** Matt Grills, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
- Owner:** The American Legion Headquarters, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
- Known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities:** None
- Tax Status:** The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes have not changed during the preceding 12 months.
- Publication Title:** The American Legion Magazine
- Issue Date for Circulation Data Below:** September 2018
- Extent and nature of circulation:**

	Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months	Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date
a. Total number of copies printed	1,871,526	1,850,253
b. Paid and/or requested circulation		
1. Paid/Requested outside-county subscriptions stated on Form 3541	1,862,918	1,841,577
2. Paid in-county subscriptions	0	0
3. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other non-USPS paid distribution	4,241	4,194
4. Other classes mailed through the USPS	0	0
c. Total paid and/or requested circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	1,867,159	1,845,771
d. Free distribution by mail		
1. Outside-county as stated on Form 3541	3,732	3,843
2. In-county as stated on Form 3541	0	0
3. Other classes mailed through the USPS	0	0
e. Free distribution outside the mail	0	0
f. Total Free distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e)	3,732	3,843
g. Total distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)	1,870,891	1,849,614
h. Copies not distributed	635	639
i. Total (Sum of 15g and h)	1,871,526	1,850,253
j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation	99.80	99.79

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.  
Jeffrey Stoffer, Publisher

## LEGION SHOPPER



**U.S. MILITARY MEDALS & RIBBONS**

**FREE COLOR CATALOG!**  
TOLL FREE TEL: 800-864-5062

**VETS SUPPLY LINE**  
10550 CO RD 81, #218  
MAPLE GROVE, MN 55369

**WEB SITE: [www.MilitaryVetsPX.com](http://www.MilitaryVetsPX.com)**

**CUSTOM BALL CAPS-NAVY SHIP CAPS**



**HAT PINS • MEDALS • BALL CAPS**

**BUCKLES • PATCHES**

**HONORS**  
by Hoover's Mfg., Co.  
P.O. Box 547AL, Peru, IL 61354  
Fax: 1-815-223-1499

**Email: [dave@hmc honors.com](mailto:dave@hmc honors.com)**  
**Website: [www.hmc honors.com](http://www.hmc honors.com)**

• **FREE COLOR CATALOG**  
• 2500+ Military Designs  
• Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines  
• **Call now! Toll-free! 1-888-223-1159**  
• Custom pins & patches available. Dealer inquires welcome.



*It's beginning to cost a lot like Christmas.*

**THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**, in lieu of gifts, I've decided to give everyone my opinion.

**'TWAS THE NIGHT** before Christmas, and all through the house, everyone was on their phones.

**THE OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY** is a great opportunity to catch up with people you haven't seen in 20 minutes.

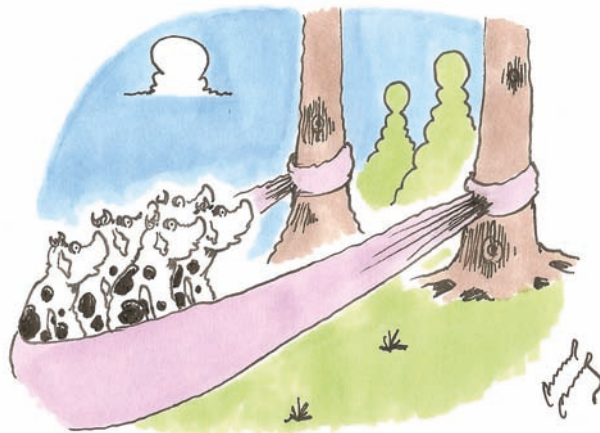
**AT 1 A.M.**, the police stopped an old man in questionable condition.

"What are you doing out so late, sir?" the police officer asked.

"I'm going to a seminar on the harmful effects of alcohol," the man replied.

"Right," the officer said sarcastically. "Who would hold a seminar like that at this hour?"

The man sighed. "My wife."



"The herd shot around the world"

**WHILE ON MANEUVERS** in the Mojave Desert, our convoy got lost, forcing our lieutenant to radio for help.

"Are you near any landmarks that might help us locate you?" the base operator asked.

"Yes," said the lieutenant. "We are directly under the moon."

— Submitted by Jesse Joe Wingo, as published in Reader's Digest's "Humor in Uniform"

Do you have a funny military-related anecdote? To share with Reader's Digest, visit [rd.com/submit](http://rd.com/submit). Remember to include your American Legion post name and number.



"Did I mention the heated seats?"



"Have you tried a venomous conditioner?"

**AN UNDERTAKER** notified a man on vacation that his father-in-law had died, and asked whether he should bury, embalm or cremate him. The answer was quick: "Take no chances. All three."

**ACUPUNCTURE** is a jab well done.

**WHY DID THE DINOSAUR** cross the road? Because the chicken hadn't evolved yet.

**I USED TO BELIEVE** that the brain is the most important organ. But then I thought, "Hey, look who's telling me that."

**"THE FDA** is launching a new campaign against teen vaping, because we all know if there's one way to get kids to stop smoking, it's hearing from all those cool cats at the Food and Drug Administration." — Jimmy Fallon

**NORTH AMERICA'S**

# **#1 Selling** Walk-In Tub

*Featuring our New Exclusive Shower Package*

**Special Offer  
FOR VETERANS!**

**Now** you can finally have all of the soothing benefits of a relaxing warm bath, or enjoy a convenient refreshing shower while seated or standing. Introducing Safe Step Walk-In Tub's exclusive **NEW Shower Package!**

- ✓ First and only walk-in tub available with a customizable shower
- ✓ Fixed rainfall shower head is adjustable for your height and pivots to offer a seated shower option
- ✓ Durable frameless tempered glass enclosure available
- ✓ High-quality tub complete with a comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub
- ✓ Top-of-the-line installation and service, all included at one low, affordable price

***Now you can have the best of both worlds—there isn't a better, more affordable walk-in tub, that is made in the USA!***



**Call today and receive a  
FREE SHOWER  
PACKAGE!**

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

**Call Toll-Free 1-800-971-5394**

**SAFE STEP  
WALK-IN TUB**  
[www.BuySafeStep.com](http://www.BuySafeStep.com)

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub.  
Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase.  
Offer available while supplies last. No cash value.  
Must present offer at time of purchase.

**For your FREE information kit and  
our Senior Discounts, Call Today Toll-Free**

# **1-800-971-5394**

**FINANCING  
AVAILABLE  
WITH APPROVED  
CREDIT**



**LIFETIME  
LIMITED WARRANTY**



CSLB 983603 F13000002885 13HV08744300



# FREE SHIPPING\*!

Soft, cozy flannel comfort — it's literally a snap!

## SNAP-FRONT FLANNEL SHIRTS

No more grappling with teeny, tricky buttons! This toasty-warm brushed flannel shirt has quick and easy snap front and cuffs so it slips on fumble-free. Roomy fit. Two chest pockets. Machine-washable cotton/polyester. Imported.

Sizes: S, M, L, XL **\$14.99 Buy 2, \$12.99 ea.**

Sizes: 2XL, 3XL, 4XL **\$19.99 Buy 2, \$17.99 ea.**

Sizes: LT, XLT **\$19.99 Buy 2, \$17.99 ea.**

**NEW  
COLORS!**

**SAVE  
\$4**

BLUE/WHITE  
(5R)

*"Good everyday shirts that  
are warm & durable!"*

— Bob, online customer

CHARCOAL  
(07)

BURGUNDY/  
BLUE  
(M7)

BLUE/  
NAVY  
(MX)

**NEW!**  
GREY  
(06)

RED  
PLAID  
(PS)

**NEW!**  
GOLDEN  
TAN  
(2N)

**NEW!**  
DARK TEAL  
(JY)

### These Flannels Have It All!

Soft brushed flannel!  
Easy SNAP closures!  
2 chest pockets!  
BIG & TALL Sizes!  
Easy Wash & Wear!  
Quick snap cuffs!

**HABAND**



RED  
PLAID  
(PS)

2 Chest  
Pockets!

**Top-Rated  
for Comfort!**

**Haband®** PO Box 8, Warren, PA 16366-0008



☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ AmEx  
☐ Discover® ☐ Check

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Mr. Mrs. Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_ purchase price, & only ~~\$9.99~~ shipping & handling for my entire order. Please add applicable state & local sales tax for the following states: CA, CO, FL, GA, LA, MA, ME, MN, NJ, PA, RI, VT, WA, WI, & WV.

**Search this code at  
Haband.com to get this  
price & FREE SHIPPING!**

	WHAT SIZE?	HOW MANY?
5R	BLUE/WHITE	
07	CHARCOAL	
M7	BURGUNDY/BLUE	
MX	BLUE/NAVY	
06	GREY	
PS	RED PLAID	
2N	GOLDEN TAN	
JY	DARK TEAL	

\*Valid on standard shipping for areas served by the US Postal Service.

☐ **Check for Protection Plus! (X96)**

Expedites replacement of items lost in transit. Add \$2.95 to protect your entire order.

When you pay by check, you authorize us to use information from your check to clear it electronically. Funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day we receive your payment, and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution.

**Satisfaction Guaranteed**  
or Full Refund of merchandise purchase price up to 90 days after receipt.

**Call Now! 1-800-742-2263  
OR Shop at Haband.com**

52533035